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240,000 TVR with Fantasy Formula 1 Page 48

Libby Purve Columnist of th year: In praise

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Fantasy Football League

Women and children freed by Hutus

Bandits seize Britons on gorilla safari

By Susan Bell. Robin Lodge and Stephen Farrell

UP TO 14 tourists, including five Britons, were kidnapped by Hutu rebels as they slept at a gorilla reserve camp site in Uganda yesterday. Their attackers, who were armed with spears, guns and machetes. also killed a game warden and set cars and tents alight before fleeing into the forest.

The bandits - thought to have been members of the notorious death squads responsible for the massacre of half a million peple in Rwanda five years ago — are believed to have taken 27 people from the camp in the remote Bwindi Impenetrable Forest, but they later let all the women and chil-

dren go. It was not clear last night how many were still being held captive, but Michael Cook, the British High Commissioner in Kampala, said that he had received reports that as many as five Britons could be among the hostages, along with several Ugandans. three Americans, three New Zealands, a Swiss and an Australian. He said: "There is obviously anxiety because of the reputation of the group that has taken them, and the inaccessibility of the area."

The raiders were reported to be heading for the Democratic Republic of the Congo, having released up to 15 people who were described as safe, but "in a terrible state after their ordeal". They were returning to Kampala last night.

René Roudaut, the French ambasssador in Kampala, said that about 150 heavily armed bandits had surprised the holidaymakers as they slept at the Buhoma camping site on the northern edge of the park. As dawn broke, the tourists were rounded up at gun-point and stripped of their valuables while the raiders set fire to vehicles and tents. Some French-speakers tried



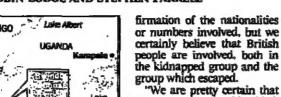
to communicate with their attackers, but it was not clear whether they were responsible for negotiating the release of the women and children. Those included France's deputy ambassador to Uganda. Anne Peltier, and four French tourists, a Scottish woman. three Americans, two Danes and four Australians. Two American men avoided being

taken prisoner by hiding. Mr Cook said that those who escaped had reported "a deal of shooting and shouting as lourists groups from a number of camps were assembled and marched to a camp. "where some were sent away and some were taken away. They are shaken but no one is physically hurt, except for odd bruises from running down

The London firm, Acacia Expeditions, confirmed that 15 of its clients and two crew leaders had been involved, but it did not know who had been held or released.

Mike Jones, managing direc-tor of the holiday firm Abercrombie & Kent, said that there had been eleven people in their camp when the raid took place and three of them. including a guide, were taken hostage. The others. French and American tourists, had been taken back to Kampala.

A Foreign Office spokesman said: "We do not yet have con-



"We are pretty certain that there was a local guide killed, but none of the tourists. We are making arrangements for those who escaped to be flown back to Kampala."

The Bwindi Impenetrable National Park, created in 1991, covers 331 sq km of rainforest on the edge of the western Rift Valley, south of Lake Edward.

It is home to more than 300 mountain gorillas, divided into a dozen groups - more than half of the world's wild mountain gorilla population

— and is also famous for nearly 350 species of bird.

The park, whose name means place of darkness, has two tourist camps a few hundred yards apart. One is owned by African Pearl Safaris. and a night there costs between 30 and 65 dollars; the other is Aberroombie and Kent's Buhoma Gorilla Camp, with self-contained standing tents, which cost upwards of

200 dollars a night. The Park is visited by thousands of tourists every year, but it has become increasinely dangerous as a result of raids by the Hutu rebels who are thought to have carried out the latest attack.

There have been several incidents of rebel forces crossing the border into Uganda to hiiack vehicles - either killing or abducting their passengers. Last August, the rebels kidnapped four tourists, a Canadian, two Swedes and a New Zealander, in the region to see the gorillas. The Canadian was later released, but the others have not been seen or heard of since.

PCO accused, page 2



The Prince of Wales and Alun Michael, the Welsh Secretary, sample the banned cut of beef yesterday in Newport although the bones are clearly visible

Prince goes near the bone over beef

By VALERIE ELLIOTT AND MICHAEL HARVEY

THE Prince of Wales was last night embroiled in a political controversy over beef on the bone after he and Alun Michael, the Welsh Secretary. ate the banned meat at a Welsh food promotion.

An investigation by environmental health officials was under way to discover how the heir to the throne and the cabinet minister came to be offered the banned cut.

The Prince described the meat as "absolutely delicious" and he and Mr Michael encouraged others to taste it.

They were presented with the sirloin by Trefor Jones, a top Welsh chef, with the banned ribs plainly visible on the table in front of them. It was then sliced for them by

James Martin, a television celebrity chef.

Buckingham Palace suggested last night that even if the Prince had realised that the meat was on the bone he would have eaten it anyway. Mr Michael also claimed he did not know that he had eaten the banned product, although he remarked: "Nice to see it

cooked properly."

Later Mr Michael was forced to backtrack and said he would never have eaten the meat if he had known it was on the bone. A Welsh Office spokesman said: "Mr Michael

just didn't notice that it was beef on the bone in among all the activity of a royal visit." Both men are in the clear le-gally, however, It is not unlawful to eat beef on the bone but a spokeswoman for the Minis-

try of Agriculture said it was il-

legal to supply it even when provided free of charge. Public health inspectors are to visit the Celtic Manor Hotel and Golf Club, near Newport, which served the cut, banned

following the BSE crisis. The organisers of the Welsh promotion, which was specifically backed by the Prince to help Welsh farmers stricken by the farming crisis, could

now face legal action. Steve Howells, a spokesman for the hotel, said the meat had been supplied by their regular firm, Welsh Brothers, of Newport. He said that they had not "deliberately flouted the law" and had believed that the ban only applied to sales of beef on

the bone. "If we are in the wrong then it is because the rules are confused. There should be much clearer rules and guidance

There was no intention of putting the Prince in an awkward position." Alan Duncan, the Tory

health spokesman, accused the Government of embarrassing the Prince and called on Mr Michael to argue for the ban to be lifted.

Tony Blair's official spokesman said: "Somebody selected a series of cuts of beef, and at a function to promote British beef Alun Michael ate them. Had he known it was taken from a cut that would be banned for sale he clearly would not have done it."

The Prince seemed unconcerned by the controversy and told farmers, butchers and civic dignitaries at yesterday's launch: "I am only sorry that so many of you have had to wait in here, building up an enormous appetite whilst having to look at this huge hunk of roast beef. Shortly, you will be able to taste it like I did. It's ab-

solutely delicious."

Car fume shock for Los Angeles

Car exhaust fumes which cause cancer are putting Los Angeles residents hundreds of times more at risk of fatal disease than the federal Clean Air Act allows Page 15

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Straw in race relations warning to police chiefs

By STEWART TENDLER, PHILIP WERSTER AND ADAM SAGE

JACK STRAW yesterday warmed chief constables that they must take race relations seriously or face government intervention in their forces.

Senior officers could also find themselves back in the classroom attending race relations training alongside top managers from business and industry. The Home Secretary said that it was wrong that chief constables received no further training once they took command.

Mr Straw issued his warning as he released the results of a study into police work on tackling racism. The study showed that policy on community and race relations was peripheral in many forces.

The release of the study preceded an announcement from Mr Straw that an independent investigator had been appointed to examine the leak of the highly critical report by Sir William Macpherson of Cluny on the Stephen Lawrence case.

Mr Straw, who defended his decision to leave the country for the weekend without giving any clue as to precisely where he went, said that the investigation's findings would be reported to MPs. The appointment of the investigator. as yet unnamed, shows the seriousness with which Mr Straw takes the leak.

Of his weekend away, he said only that it was a longstanding family engagement that he had fulfilled in the south of France - and that he had been right to do so. "We have obligations to our families even if we are politicians."

he said.

The Conservatives, who attacked Mr Straw for leaving Britain and not making the Commons statement on the affair on Friday, switched their attack back to the original leak. Sir Norman Fowler, the shadow home secretary, said there was a real possiblity that the leak had come from within the Government.



He demanded that Mr Straw personally seek assurances from any minister, adviser or civil servant who saw the report in advance that they had not played a part in its pri-

or publication.
The Home Office inspectorate of constabulary told forces 15 months ago that they would have to do better on community policing. The release yesterday of the follow-up study by the inspectorate revealed that 17 of the 43 forces in England and Wales still did not have any community and race rela-

tions policy.

Mr Straw told police that
new "Best Value" legislation would allow police authorities and ministers to intervene if a force did not reform. The Local Covernment Bill will give ministers powers to intervene if a force is performing badly. The force would be told for example to draw up a race relations plan or make the issue part of annual targets.

Commenting on the report, Mr Straw said: "We are now at a watershed in police and community relations. This is a time for permanent and irrevocable change." He said forces would face an-

other audit within the next 18 Lack of action, page 9

Elderly must wait on care

By JILL SHERMAN AND ALEXANDRA FREAN

FRANK DOBSON was last night attacked for delaying his response to a Royal Commission report that calls for a £1.2 billion annual package to give free long-term nursing care to elderly people.

The Government infuriated

care organisations by declaring that it would put the proposals out to consultation until the end of the year, in effect delaying any legislation until at least 2001 — and possibly until after the next election. Announcing to MPs the

long-awaited report's key rec-ommendations, the Health Secretary made clear that the Government was unhappy with such a big bill to the taxpayer and hinted that the package could be partly funded through private insurance schemes.

Whitehall sources also indicated that the Government would not be able to provide the funding for at least three years, as Gordon Brown, the Chancellor, had committed re-

sources for that period. The Royal Commission on Long Term Care for the Elderly, set up 14 months ago, recommends that the State should cover the costs of nursing and personal care for all, while those with incomes above £60,000 should pay for

accommodation and food in

both nursing and residential homes. But the 12 Commissioners were divided and two of them produced a minority report rejecting the key conclusions and calling for a less expensive solution, backed up

by private insurance. Mr Dobson called for an "informed debate" about longterm care, saying that the report made clear there was no "obvious answer" and there should be a full consultation. But he emphasised its findings that the country did not face a demographic time bomb and "that the cost of long-term care should be shared by the individual and the state" and be separated from those of board

and lodging. While refusing to rule out full funding, Mr Dobson suggested that the Government might cherry pick from the findings, choosing the cheaper options, some of which would

not need legislation. The Tories accused Mr Dobson of ducking the issue and dithering. Philip Hammond. the Opposition health spokesman, said that while the Commission had been deliberating 75,000 people had been forced to sell their homes to fund

> Report's proposals, page 4 Leading article, page 23

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Strange question of silage provides fodder for thought

WHAT on earth was Derek Wyatt (Lab) talking about? Would the minister for tourism. Mr Wyatt asked yester-day, alter "the way silage is coloured on our motorways

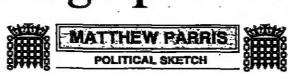
The inquiry was met by a be-mused rumble from MPs. But Wyatt's indignation was not spent "It is dirty brown. It does not give an appropriate image of new

Snatching Sittingbourne and Sheppey from the Tories in 1997. Wvatt was the thirteenth least likely new Labour

way system disfigured by spilt silage? Isn't silage dirty green? Can the Government change its colour?

Bald hulking and amiable. Wyatt looks like a baby giant auk, tumbled too early from the nest. Roth's Parliamentary Profiles calls him "relaxed about clothes and appearance". "I'm not a suit man. I have only one." A former Oxford Rugby blue. Wyatt may have sustained one blow too many to the head, on yesterday's showing I certainly heard "silage". all sides suggested that MPs heard the same. As, surely. did the minister. Janet Anderson: stumped for a reply, she stammered that her honourable friend raised - "as ever" the most interesting ques-

But my Guardian colleague thinks he heard "signage". meaning "signs"; which would have made sense if it were a word. Apparently it ment dictionaries, after "newbuild" and before "social mix" and "total spend". We must



give Wyatt the benefit of the doubt he may be less interesting than he seemed. New Labour backbenchers are not

supposed to be interesting.
Which is why Gwyneth
Dunwoody (Lab. Crewe and Nantwich) comes as such a relief. The veteran "old" Labour rightwinger arrived yesterday arrayed in a new garment. A vast purple wrap, hundreds of

square yards of it, covered this substantial lady. She described the "enormous oppor-tunities" presented by the Millennium Dome "a great pub-lic space," she said. Ah, Gwyneth, how true but not our greatest public space! It lends a whole new meaning to the

And a new fascination to

heavily plugged yesterday by the Sports Minister Tony

For Monday mornings. Mr Banks chooses a wicked little black suit, three-piece, which he wears with a puckered face and sourly deadpan expression. Apropos of nothing much, Mr Banks offered his congratulations "to the England women's rugby team, on their victory over Scotland". Mr Banks's felicitations will raise a cheer in the ladies' shower room.

"I was there," he declared grimly. And it was in fact very, very enjoyable rugby and I'd encourage people to go to women's rugby. Sadly. Mrs Dunwoody looked un-

Claire Ward seemed more game. The Labour MP for Watford was keen that Banks should promote after-school clubs. Banks said he had been impressed by these on a recent visit to Watford, a constituency foolish enough to reject him as Labour candidate in 1979.

Ms Ward, he mused, would have been seven. Too young to vote - and too old to kiss."

thought. Unflustered and benign throughout was a minister this Sketch had scarcely nomis skern han startely no-ticed the Parliamentary Secre-tary to the Leader of the House Paddy Tipping. An im-paid appointment, he is so imimportant that new Labour style police have not even both-ered to remove his beard.

But can he make it, with that name? Paddy Tupping sounds like an alternative Saturday night sport for canal-side skinheads bored with

Rugged area is a haven for genocidal rebels

ONE OF the travel agencies whose tourists were attacked last night accused the Foreign Office of issuing unclear guidance, despite official warnings two weeks ago that rebel attacks and road ambushes in Uganda's northern and western districts had intensified.

The advice, issued II days ago, said that rebels were "periedically active" on the bor-ders of Liganda. Congo and Rwanda, and warned "although the situation is currently peaceful, it can change

It also warned that operations by a separate rebel group infiltrating from the Democratic Republic of the Congo in the Rwenzori Mountains area in the west of the country were continuing at a reduced level and that the areas of the Rwenzori Mountains, Bundibugyo and Kasese "should be avoided if possible".

However Sue Ockwell, a spokeswoman for Acacia Expeditions, complained that the advice was sometimes worded in such as way that it contained clues which had to be deciphered.

"If they mean 'Don't go they should say 'Don't go'. It is a bit like estate agent-speak."

She claimed the issue had been discussed at a meeting with the Foreign Office minis-

Tour groups demand clearer official advice, report Michael

Binyon and Stephen Farrell

ter Baroness Symons a week ago. "We were told by her that there are only three and a half people manning the travel advice section. We get hundreds and hundreds of pages. It is very difficult to imagine how they can manage to handle it with such limited resources." Yesterday the Foreign Office

to the northern and western areas at all. Visitors were strongly advised to avoid the Gulu. Kitgrum and West Nile districts unless they were on urgent business in which case they

should seek local information

advice was swiftly updated: all

tourists were warned not to go

and proceed with caution. The kidnappings quickly stirred alarm among those familiar with the inaccessible mountainous area. It has long been the refuge of criminals. wanted men, rebel groups and, more recently, the extremist perpetrators of the Rwan-dan genocide killings who are determined to return to power. Some of the bloodiest and most desperate wanted men are thought to have established their bases in the area.

The main rebel group in the area is the Allied Democratic Forces, a loose alliance of former Interahamwe Hutus, responsible for the death of as many as one million Tursis in the Rwandan genocide. They are allied with Ugandan rebels opposed to the Kampala government, supporters of former President Mobutu in Zaire and local bandits.

Numbering up to 3,000 men scattered in the mountains, they are strong enough to take on the Ugandan Army, and last year overwhelmed and briefly occupied Kasese, the main town at the foot of the mountains. They are well armed, receiving supplies from Sudan and from President Kabila's government in Congo, which is fighting rebels backed by Kampala. Control Risks, London-based business risk advisers,

said that the Ugandan Army tries to deter any tourists going to the mountains, the principal habitat of gorillas. Those that defy the warnings set up camps that are guarded only by local warders, who could keep off poachers but would



Dian Fossey, who spent much of her life studying gorillas in Rwanda, was believed to have been killed by poachers

be unable to stop well-armed guerrillas. It said the Interahamwe fighters would be unlikely to take hostages and would probably kill any Europeans they seized.

One of the only two other Britons currently missing and believed kidnapped was seized in this area by Rwandan Hutu rebels. Jason Kear, who holds dual British and New Zealand nationality, was trekking with other tourists to see gorillas on the border with Uganda and Rwanda when he was seized with a Canadian and two Swedes. The Canadian woman was released, but nothing has been heard of him since.

GORILLAS ARE MAIN ATTRACTION FOR UGANDA TOURISTS

EVER since an unruly three-year-old gorilla called Pablo became a television star by sitting on David Attenhorough in the late 1970s, thousands of tourists have made the journey to meet its relatives (Adam Sherwin writes). With the closure of the parks in Rwanda and the Democratic Republic of Congo because of civil war, Uganda is theonly country where tourists can find the elu-

Only 350 mountain gorillas are known to remain in Uganda's Impenetrable Forest and irresponsible tourists, desperate for a glimpse, are causing more damage to the Gorillas in the Mist fame, lived and worked subspecies than peaching or civil war. The for 13 years smill she was killed, probably number of official visiting permits has by poachers in 1985.

dropped from 50 to 16, leading to a black market in tickets.

People paying £680 for the flight to Entebbe will often bribe the wardens permits that normally cost £150 per visit have

changed hands for £1,000. Tourists head for Bwindi, in the remote southwest corner of Uganda, near the border with the Congo and Rwanda, home to the naziority of the animals. Another 100 live 50 miles away in the Virungas, a chain of mainly extinct volcanoes on the Congo and Rwanda border where Dian Fossey, of

Lawyers demand action over costs

BY FRANCES GIBB LEGAL CORRESPONDENT

MORE than 100 solicitors will attend a crisis meeting at the Law Society today to demand action over a multimillion-pound shortfall in the fund that pays out on negligence.

Some solicitors are facing rises of up to 100 per cent in their compulsory insurance premiums to meet the shortfall of some £360 million. which they say will push up legal fees to the public. The shortfall has arisen because of incompetent conveyancing solicitors in the late 1980s when the housing market collapsed.

More than 100 solicitors are calling on the Law Society to allow them to obtain their professional insurance cover on the open market. At present all law firms have to pay the premiums of the Solicitors' Indemnity Insurance Fund which is some E433 million in the red.

Some 100 law firms have called a special general meet-ing to force the Law Society's hand. There will also be a special council meeting today by the Law Society's governing body to decide what action to

The Indemnity Fund cautions against the lure of the open market. While premiums might at first be low, they could rapidly rise if the market changes, it says. Elizabeth Mullins, managing director, said the open market?was un-likely to provide the extent of cover provided by the Fund.

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Older teachers 'too expensive

By JOHN O'LEARY **EDUCATION EDITOR**

MIDDLE-AGED teachers are being frozen out of the job market as schools opt for newly qualified staff to help balance their budgets, new figures have shown.

More than 8,000 people were seeking teaching jobs in mainstream schools while claiming state benefits last month even though there were up to 3,000 vacancies in England and Wales. Up to half of them were in their forties and fifties.

The number of teaching vacancies has been rising steadily throughout the 1990s. although last year's total of 2,521 still rep-

schools struggled to find suitable candidates in foreign languages, mathematics and some science subjects.

However, new statistics from the Employment Service show that more than 16,000 teachers are seeking work in primary or secondary schools. Although some are newly qualified graduates, fewer than 4,000 are in their twenties.

The largest group, at more than 4,600, are in their fifties. Most are thought to have taken early retirement and are hoping to supplement their income through temporary teaching work. Their lengthy

resented less than 0.7 per cent of the full service makes them expensive to employ complement in state schools. Secondary permanently, difficulties experienced by older applicants has led to the formation of the Association of Teachers Against Ageism. Harry Harris, its treasurer, said: This is not just a problem in teaching, but it is particularly serious in schools."

Stephen Hillier, the Teacher Training Agency's head of communications, said the age profile of those seeking jobs in schools followed that of the teaching profession as a whole. "It may be that many of these people are in the wrong place or have the wrong qualifications."

Leading article, page 23

tish soil and prohibiting all

nuclear-powered submarines

The clear implication, he

said, was that the Faslane

base would have to be moved

"What would happen to those jobs linked to the nuc-

lear facilities at Faslane? What

would be the timescale for

Mr Robertson also asked

whether the SNP had both-ered to think about the years of "fraught" negotiations be-tween Russia and Ukraine to

withdrawal?" he asked.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Sewage action demand

The Government yesterday told the water industry to clean up sewage while cutting bills by 10 per cent. Michael Meacher, the Environment Minister, claimed the combination was achievable but Water UK, the industry's trade association, said there was a £2 billion shortfall between what water companies believed the programme would cost, and figures produced by Ofwat and the Environment Agency. Mr Meacher said that in future all coastal discharges serving populations of 2,000 or more must receive at least secondary treatment.

Car sales 25% down

Figures to be published this week are expected to show a fall of more than 25 per cent in new car registrations in January and February. Car manufacturers, braced for an 8 per cent fall in sales over the year, are hoping for high March sales after yester-day's launch of six-monthly registrations. Although private or-ders are low for T-reg plates, fleet sales are expected to be good.

Obsessed secretary guilty

Gillian Hartshorne, 50, the secretary of Professor David Canter of Liverpool University, a leading criminal psychologist, was found guilty of harassment causing fear of violence against him. Hartshorne, who became obsessed that he was having an affair with a student and bombarded him with more than 500

McDonald 'improving'

The Channel 4 presenter Sheena McDonald, who suffered serthe Charitet 4 presenter sheeria McLohaid, who subtered ser-tious head injuries when she was hit by a speeding police van, showed signs of a slight improvement. She is still in intensive care at University College Hospital, Central London, but is now able to breathe without a ventilator and her condition remains stable. She was hurt in an accident on Friday night in Islington.

Porn teacher jailed

A public school teacher and former lay clerk at Ely Cathedral who downloaded child pornography from the Internet onto his home computer was jailed for four months. Jonathon Bowden, 30, who taught music at The King's School, Ely, admitted 21 charges at Chelmsford Crown Court, Essex. The offences came to light when Bowden took his computer for repairs.

Scots told to keep nuclear deterrent

BY MICHAEL EVANS, DEFENCE EDITOR

A NUCLEAR-FREE independent Scotland would dangerous-ly weaken Britain's nuclear deterrent, the Defence Secretary said yesterday. George Robertson, who in

his youth campaigned against the deployment of American ballistic missile submarines at Holy Loch, told a Scottish audience that the Royal Navy's Trident submarines must remain at Faslane because the base on the Clyde had long played an important part in Britain's defence.

Delivering his first major speech on nuclear policy at Aberdeen University, Mr Robertson warned the Scottish Nationalist Party: "Those who would take Scotland out of the United Kingdom need to address the implications of separation for the rest of the coun-

try."

The nationalists, he said, were committed to closing all nuclear installations on Scot-

divide the Black Sea Fleet, following the collapse of the Soviet Union.

"Would a separate Scottish state compensate the rest of the United Kingdom for any costs that arose?" he asked.

Mr Robertson also called on Scottish nationalists to consider the cost of setting up a separate Scottish Army, Navy and Air Force.

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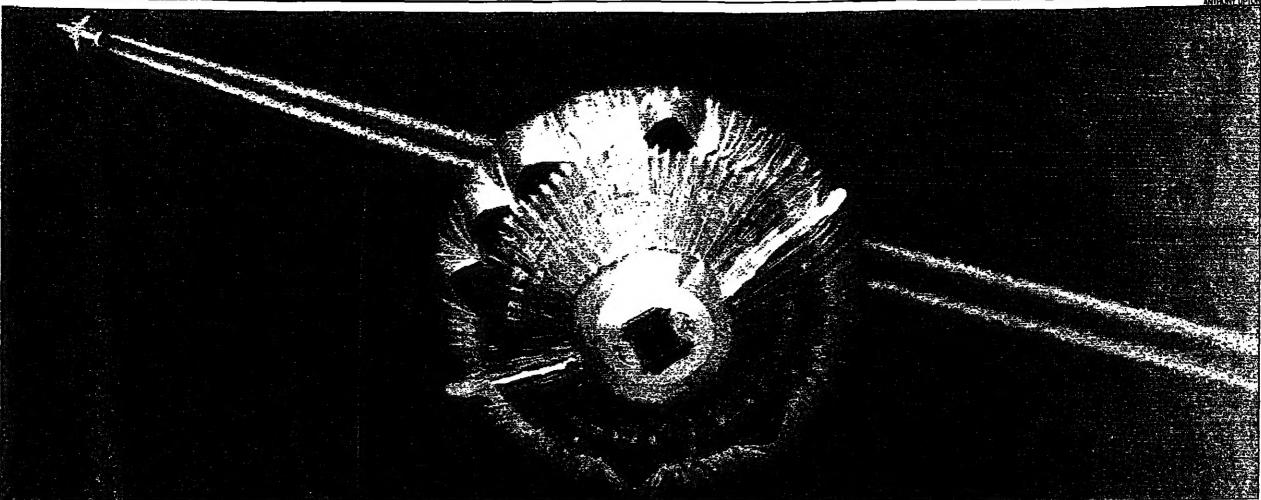
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After several bumpy false starts, the Breitling Orbiter 3 balloon takes to the skies in the Swiss Alps yesterday, starting a race to the finish with the Cable & Wireless craft which is currently attempting to manoeuvre around China

Global balloon race finally takes off

FROM HELEN RUMBELOW IN CHÂTEAU D'OEX

THE challenge to be the first team to circumnavigate the globe in a balloon became a true race yesterday with the launch of Breitling Orbiter 3 in the Swiss Alps.

Andy Elson was hanging outside his Cable and Wireless balloon over the Bay of Bengal yesterday morning when his co-pilot told him that their ri-

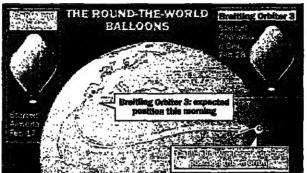
vals were airborne. Although it is 6,000 miles behind, the Breitling Orbiter is smaller, lighter and will go faster - a lean hare to the Cable and Wireless tortoise.

The news only added to Mr Elson's frustration at being forced to take the slow route around China. As they are a British team the Chinese have banned them in retribution for Richard Branson's trespassing balloon flight at Christmas. Although the Cable & Wirless craft has broken the world endurance record of 10 days and will by tomorrow have spent a fortnight in the air, now at 20mph they can only sit and watch their rivals catch them up on the best t00mph winds going over Chi-

However it was a rocky start for the Breitling Orbiter 3 in Château d'Oex and for Brian Jones, the British co-pilot who was standing on top of the capsule as it launched.

The same fast winds that have the team confidently predicting they will be around the world in 15 days caused the 55 metre high silver balloon to strain at its tethers.

It crashed down to earth five times with alarming crunch-ing sounds, rocking Mr Jones This was forgotten in the anxiety of take-off. "It was a



on his feet before it finally shot

up into the air at 8.05am. Mr Jones, 51, a ballooning instructor from Devizes, Wiltshire, had earlier asked the 5,000-strong crowd to sing Happy Birthday to Bertrand Piccard, his Swiss co-pilot who was 41 yesterday.

This was forgotten in the

very difficult dangerous takeoff," said Joanna Jones, his wife, a balloon pilot and member of the Breitling mission

Balloons are not meant to bounce like that and to make it worse this is the first time Brian has been on top of the cap-

control team.

sule as it launches. "It makes it worse to know how dangerous this can be. I was trying not to watch but it all got a little bit more emotional than advertised."

Within three hours of launching the pilot announced that the balloon had been undamaged by its battering and

predicted they would be over Morocco by this morning. They aim to be on the Pacific coast by this weekend, gaining at least a week on their rivals and possibly overtaking them.
This is tedious low level ma-

noeuvring," said Ian Achpole, flight director for Cable & Wireless. "But it's important to get around China, and still have enough fuel to get all the way around the world."

The Cable & Wireless balloon is predicted to be close to the coast of Burma by this morning. The Breitling head-ed at 17mph over the Matterhorn and on to Turin and

and by tomorrow to Mauritania where they aim to pick up a 100mph jet stream, heading for China in around six days.

Just before lift off Mr Jones

said that the Breitling team had never felt so confident. "The idea that we are taking off in a last ditch attempt at the end of the season couldn't be further from the truth," he said. Instead, he said, the

winds were faster than they The Cable & Wireless team has given up efforts to repair a faulty heater, which has left Colin Prescot and Mr Elson

gear at high altitudes. A spokeswoman said: "It is not ideal, but it is not missionthreatening, so they will just be putting a brave face on it."

forced to wear Arctic survival



Brian Jones kisses his wife Joanna goodbye

not guilty over death of brother

A BOY aged 13 who accidentally killed his brother with a knife bore no responsibility for his death, a judge said yes-

Mr Justice Poole told Leeds Crown Court that Daniel Cooper was not guilty of a manslaughter charge arising from the death of his brother, Richard, 18, and that he should "put this matter behind

The judge's comments came after the prosecution dropped a charge of murder against the boy, then offered no evidence when he pleaded not guilty to an alternative charge of man-

Aidan Marron, QC, for the prosecution, told the court that Richard Cooper, a builder's labourer, had been been stabbed through the eye during an ar-gument at the family home in

York last December. Mr Marron said that after struggling with his father, John. Richard had grabbed Daniel by the face with both

hands. "Daniel grabbed hold of a nearby kitchen knife. He held it by the handle with the blade pointing up. There is no suggestion that it was held in a stabbing fashion," he said.

Mr Marron said that when Richard suddenly moved forward the blade of the knife penetrated his eye and brain. He died in hospital the following

day.
Paul Worsley, QC, for the de-fence, said: "This was a tragic accident, as young Daniel has

Boy, 13, is | Take That star | Clowes is challenges £1m court decision

By JOANNA BALE

ROBBIE WILLIAMS, the reformed bad boy of pop who won three Brit Awards this year, began another courtroom battle yesterday with the man who launched his show-

business career. Lawyers for the 25-year-old performer are challenging a High Court ruling that he must pay his former manager. Nigel Martin-Smith, £90,000 in commission under the terms of a complex management agreement. At stake is an estimated £1 million when legal costs. VAT, interest and further ongoing commission are

The case, in the Court of Ap-peal, dates from 1995 when Mr Williams left Take That, the phenomenally successful fivepiece boy band created by Mr Martin-Smith in the late 1980s. Michael Silverleaf, QC,



Williams: second legal

for the singer, told how Mr Williams decided to leave because he found "the tight restrictions" imposed by Mr Martin-Smith to maintain the

band's clean-living image 'somewhat difficult'. "There is no dispute that Mr Williams, in terms of his ability to perform, was widely perceived to be the funnyman with the ability to get the audience going . . . he was general-

ly regarded as the frontman."
Alluding to Mr Williams's penchant for alcohol and drugs, from which he has now recovered. Mr Silverleaf added: "Mr Williams began to go out to parties and enjoy him-self, which caused friction. He began to talk about leaving because of his desire to get on and work on his own, but he made it quite clear that he was quite happy to fulfil all the commitments of the band."

However, the other members of the band, Gary Barlow, Jason Orange, Mark Owen and Howard Donald, told Mr Williams that Mr Martin-Smith had advised them that he should leave im-

mediately.

Mr Silverleaf argued that Mr Martin-Smith was therefore not entitled to the commission because he had breached the management agreement. "Instead of organising the dis-solution of the band amicably. he decided to protect the remaining four." The hearing continues.

iailed for benefits fraud

By A CORRESPONDENT

PETER CLOWES, the disgraced financier, was jailed for four months yesterday after he was found guilty of making false claims for job seeker's allowance.

Clowes, 56, sentenced to ten years after the collapse of the investment company Barlow Clowes in 1992, had denied claiming £1,800 in benefits when he was working.

Judge John Rogers, QC, sitting at Mold Crown Court in North Wales, told Clowes, from Stockport, Manchester: You informed both orally and in writing the Benefits Agency that you weren't working. That was untrue."

During the five-day trial, the jury was told that Clowes was accused of three specimen charges over a four-month period from December 1996 to

March 1997. Robin Spencer, for the prosecution, said Clowes had been working for a computer company in London called WP Software. However, he had left that job and begun claiming benefit while living with his wife and two children in a rented, £800-a-month house in Macclesfield, Cheshire.

But, the prosecution said, he was working as a computer programmer for a business trading under the name of PCSI, set up by his step-daugh-ter and her boyfriend. He had been paying his household bills from the business bank account. Clowes was being "paid through the back door".

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PC pounds beat in search of jury

BY A CORRESPONDENT

A JUDGE faced with a shortage of jurors ordered a police officer to go out into the street to press-gang passers-by. But not one person agreed to help.

Judge Richard Hayward ordered the rare move when an indecent assault trial in his court at Lewes. East Sussex. was delayed for four hours after a fe-

male juror failed to attend. He sent PC Dave Bielkus to find a replacement but the men and women in the street, showing a marked lack of civic duty, all made excuses and left. The problem was resolved only when a juror summoned three hours earlier final-

curred on Friday but details were not disclosed until the trial finished yesterday to avoid any possible prejudice to

A jury of 12 had been sworn in on Thursday and the prosecution had opened its case before Judge Hayward adjourned the proceedings overnight. On Friday morning, no trace could be found of a female juror in her 20s.

Judge Hayward was forced officially to discharge the II remaining jurors to allow a fresh group of 12 to be selected and sworn in, but all potential jurors were by then serving in other trials.

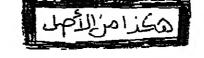
Court staff tried to contact Hove

ly arrived in a taxi. The incident oc- Crown Court, ten miles away, to see if it had any spare jurors, only to get an answerphone message. Finally a spare juror did arrive from Hove to bring the pool of available jurors up to 12.

That still left a problem: a jury has to be selected at "random" and for that to

happen a pool of at least 13 must be available. Judge Hayward agreed to send court staff outside to "summon someone on the street. Eventually, a 13th juror arrived more than three hours after being contacted at home and told to take a taxi.

Mark Venables, 2L from Hove. East Sussex, was found not guilty of inde-



Alexandra Fream on the Royal Commission's proposals

Elderly may not have to sell up to afford care

ELDERLY people could be spared the anguish of having to sell their home to pay for long-term nursing or residential care. Proposals unveiled yesterday by the Royal Commission on Long-Term Care for the Elderly proposed making all nursing and personal care — including administering medication and help with washing and dressing - free to all those who are assessed

as needing it.

Normal living and housing costs would remain the responsibility of care-home residents under the proposals, which would cost the state £1.2 billion to implement in the first

The radical proposals also include raising the savings level - including the value of a home - that a person can have before they have to start paying for their own care. from £16,000 to £00,000.

The new system would be overseen by a National Care Commission, headed by a "care czar", which would enforce minimum standards and monitor costs.

A dissentient note, signed by two of the 12 commissioners. rejected the main proposals as

THE FUTURE

too costly and recommended that people should be able to borrow against the value of their house to fund care. Sir Stewart Sutherland, chairman of the commission.

said that the current system of tunding long-term care, which divides responsibilities between the State and the individual, was complex and confusing and created real fear among those approaching old This is a scandal in modern Britain and it must be changed." he said.

"If we have a heart attack or cancer, we know that the health service we have paid for through our taxes will deliver the care we require without further payment. But if we are unfortunate enough to become frail and need care through old age, we suddenly find we are expected to meet some or all of the costs ourselves. This is not right." Sir Stewart said.

Other recommendations in-■ The value of a person's home should be disregarded for up to three months after admission to care in a home, to

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■ The opportunity for rehabil-itation should be included as in integral part of any care as-

■ Budgets shared between health, social services and other statutory bodies should be

Local authorities should be allowed to make loans to individuals who need aids or housing adaptations that will enable them to stay in their own

A national carer support package should be introduced and £220 million a year set aside to help carers. This would need to rise to £700 mil-

lion by 2050. ■ More emphasis should be given to delaying illness and dependency on long-term care, through health education and more preventive medi-

Sir Stewart said it was important to "shatter the myth that the nation cannot afford to pay for personal care for its old people". There was, he insisted, no such thing as a "demographic timebomb" and the cost of care was affordable.

Patricia Davey: "My mother's generation thought they had paid their dues and they would be looked after in old age"

"We have taken advice from the most eminent economists and we are confident that we have got our sums right," he

The nation currently pays £11.1 billion a year on long-term care for the elderly, including contributions from individuals. This would rise to £45 billion by the middle of the next century. If the proposals were implemented, the State's share of costs would rise from £8.2 billion at the moment to £33 billion by 2050. Organisations representing

the elderly welcomed the report and urged the Government to act on it immediately.

Leading article, page 23

The age-old dilemma

LIKE tens of thousands of others, Patricia Davey is looking for a residential home for an

elderly parent. Her mother, Marjorie, a widow who suffers from dementia, is recovering from a broken leg and the family has decided that they can no long-er provide her with the care she needs in her own home.

Although Marjorie, 78, does not fully know it, she will have to sell the small terraced house she has lived in for the past 14 years to pay for her nursing home fees of £316 to THE MOTHER

£380 a week. This is because her savings - including the value of her house - come to more than £16,000. Once her assets have been reduced to £16,000, the State will be liable for some of the costs, and once they fall to £10,000, the State should pay her fees in

Mrs Davey, from Morley in Leeds, is upset at having to sell her mother's home "it is not a very nice feeling, espe-

ILS99

cially when you know that people who do not have a home to sell get all their care

She welcomes the commission's recommendation that no pensioner should have to pay their own nursing and personal care costs. "My mother worked in the mills during the war and after that always had a job. Her generation saw the NHS come into existence. They thought they had paid their dues and that they would be looked after in their

'State cannot foot bill for all'

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THE DISSENTERS

By JULL SHERMAN CHIEF POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

A MINORITY report from two members of the Royal Commission rejects the main recommendations as too ex-pensive but suggests that elder-ly people should be able to take out a government loan to

avoid selling their homes.
David Lipsey and Joel Joffe have produced a "dissenting" report which argues that the poorer taxpayer should not be footing the bill for care of those gest an extension of private insurance for nursing and resi-dential care by extending pension tax breaks, while accepting that it cannot entirely replace funding from taxation.

The two commissioners recommend that the Government allocates £300 million to cover the shortfall for nursing and residential homes. They also suggest raising from £16,000 to £30,000 the level of savings allowed before people have to pay for their care, and changing the amount payable if sav-ings drop below £30,000. They call for the end of the anomaly where people in nursing homes pay for their care whilst those in hospitals, residential homes and their own

Means-testing is unpopular and seen as unjust

By Alexandra Frean

THE present system of meanstesting for care in old age is deeply unpopular and per-

ceived as grossly unjust.

Many people who have carefully saved all their lives and paid off their mortgage regard it as unfair that they should have to use up all their savings. have to use up all their savings and sell their family home in order to pay for their care, while those with no savings

get it free from the State. Under present rules, people who move into a residential or nursing home have to pay all the costs until their income (including state benefits) and savings (including the value of their home, if they live alone) have been reduced to £16,000, at which point the State will pay for part of their care. Once savings fall to £10,000, the

State will meet the full costs. There is also the huge perceived injustice concerning types of illness. An elderly person with cancer and needing THE CHOICE NOW

hospital care would get it free on the NHS. Those of the same age with Alzheimer's disease, however, would have to pay for all or part of their care. merely because they would be unlikely to be admitted to hospital and would have to stay in their own home or in a residen-

tial establishment. One way to protect assets is to take out a long-term care insurance policy. Depending on a person's health, gender and age, a monthly premium of between £50 to £70 could be expected to provide up to £10,000 care cover a year.

Elderly people needing care can no longer rely on their im-mediate family to provide it. In a recent survey only 40 per cent of adults said that if a parent needed care they would try. to look after him or her themselves; 55 per cent said they would not expect their own children to look after them.





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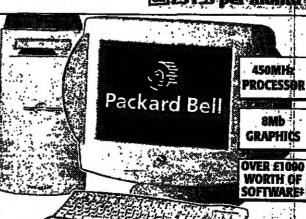
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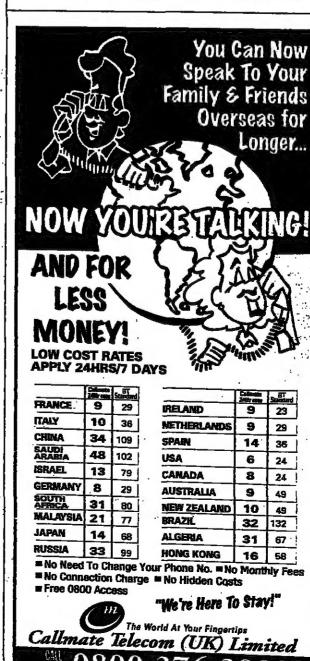
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Oxford college sees drink as bar to success

AN OXPORD college is considering a cut in bar opening hours in an attempt to improve students' examination

Reducing evening opening by an hour is one of a series of measures academics are discussing with undergraduates at St Catherine's. At present the college languishes 28th out of 30 in the Norrington Table, the unofficial league table of Oxford colleges' academic performance.

Students are fiercely critical of the plan, which would restrict opening hours from 8pm to lipm instead of 7.30pm to 11.30pm. More than 250 protesters packed into a routine junior common room meeting normally attended by only 50.

An unofficial poster on the college's JCR notice board invited academics to set a better example by cutting their own consumption of wine at college dinners. The poster suggested it would ensure dons were on top form "to lead their sinful students back to academic paradise" rather than branding them "feckless delinquents

bloated on Castlemaine". Balveen Ajimal, the JCR president at St Catherine's. said yesterday that students generally thought the idea of

one. She said: "It would encourage people to go out into town, which takes more time. It might encourage people to drink more in a short period of time and there is a benefit of having people in college when they are going to drink rather than send them into town."

Ms Ajimal emphasised that a number of measures were being considered to raise academic standards at the college following meetings between the JCR and fellows. "The relationship between the two has been good, with quite a bit of give and take. I hope the idea about the bar will not be seen as a punitive measure, rather as one of many constructive suggestions being considered. The governing body is having a big rethink about how the

college is performing. There will be no quick changes." An academic policy committee, set up at St Catherine's to increase standards, is expected to make a number of recommendations to the university's

governing body.

Ms Ajimal said students and staff shared a mutual desire to raise standards, including the quality of tuition and lecturing. Both sides wanted to investigate ways of ensuring students got more out of their

the discussions was not to im-prove St Catherine's position in the Norrington Table but to make sure students got the academic support they needed.

Martin Jackson, bursar of
St Catherine's, yesterday con-

firmed that a working party of. fellows had been looking at academic standards and had examined bar opening hours among a wide range of domestic activities affecting academ-

He said he had not seen their report and was not aware of proposals to cut bar

opening hours.

Any changes would be done in consultation with the junior common room. He added: The report has not yet been seen by the governing body of the college. Until that takes place nothing in the report is either a proposal or an item for



Pet rescue: a fireman reaching for the trapped Armani



Firemen dig deep to save hamster

A PET hamster that disappeared down a drainpipe at its owner's home in Aspley Guise, Bedfordshire, at the weekend was eventually rescued by firemen from 6ft un-

der the garden patio yesterday. One fire engine and a rescue unit with 12 firefighters on board attended after Armani could be heard by her owners scratching underground. The firefighters had to dig a deep hole to expose the pipe and free the animal, and that meant ripping up the patio.

Armani. a female hamster,

was eventually freed by a fireman who had been lowered head first into the 6ft hole by his colleagues. The firefighters had earlier sent a remotepipe and were able to see

where Armani was stuck. The trouble began on Saturday when the hamster escaped after being let out of its cage during a power cut. Karen Wakefield, 32, her husband Tim, 37, and their sons Tom, 7, and George, 5, searched by candlelight for Armani. But when the lights came back on, there was no

sign of the pet hamster. The search continued on Sunday and yesterday morning Mrs Wakefield heard the sounds of scratching from a pipe that ran from under the kitchen sink to the garden outside. The family called in the

Catholic school bans Red **Nose Day**

By ADAM SHERWIN

A HEADMASTER has banned pupils from taking part in Red Nose Day because funds raised by the charity Comic Relief support projects that pro-

mote contraception. Children at Rosary Roman Catholic School in Saltley, Birmingham, will not be allowed to wear red noses or collect money at school for the appeal

on March 12. Jim Caffery, the head, said:
"We are against Red Nose
Day because of its support for

contraception, abortion and sterilisation, which I believe is

a moral evil." Mr Caffery's stand was sup-ported by the Roman Catholic Church. The Catholic Media Office said: "People will question whether family planning is a need in the same way as

acute poverty."

Comic Relief said that misleading information had been circulated about its activities."We do not fund abortions or sterilisation. We fund work that promotes informed choice about family planning," a spokesman said.

Students say study and alcohol do mix

lege, Oxford, believe that their results refute any link between bar opening hours and poor academic performance-(Helen Johnstone writes)

Balliol, whose students enjoy the longest bar opening bours of any Oxford college, shot up to fifth place from 19th in this year's Norrington Ta-ble Neville Eisenberg, the colent, said: "It is absolute

He attributed Balliol's success to its strong academic record. "Ours is one of only by students and we open from 6.30mm to Ihom," he said: "If people want to drink, they will go into town to drink, and that would result in more prob-

Harris Manchester College, bottom of the Norrington Ta-ble, yesterday denied that alcohol consumption had anything to do with its position. Caroline Barnes, 26, a JCR spokeswoman, said: "Our college is low in the table only beise it is small. We are all

only about 120 of us.

Our bar is like a small living room. Few of us ever over-indulge. There are not many students who are under 30 and we are quite happy to have a couple of glasses of wine after dinner."

Tony George, bar manager at St Catherine's College, said that he rarely saw more than and that many of them wanted only a can of cola. "They don't drink massive amounts hours they would just go into town and drink there," he

Balveen Afimal, St Catherine's JCR president, said: "We are more inidback here than at other colleges where there is much more of a bar culture. We have a pool table and television and they attract as

many people as the alcohol." She conceded, however, that last year's favourite tipple was a "bit dubious". "It was called Cuban Fire and I think it was a type of rum punch. Fortunately, most students have gone back to drinking

Village wins compromise on grant

BY SIMON DE BRUXELLES

A VILLAGE that spurned the offer of £180,000 from the National Lonery for a new leisure centre was yesterday celebrating a lar smaller gram to improve its existing hall.

The 352 residents of Llanbedr, near Crickhowell in Powys, said last year that they were "too middle class" to accept the initial offer from the lonery's Millennium Fund, and that poor former mining communities in the valleys of South Wales would be worthi-

The issue split the village, with those who wanted a new leisure centre accusing their neighbours of snobbery, but in a mini-referendum last year residents voted 135 to 76 to keep their old hall.

Yesterday the National Lottery Charities Board, a separate body responsible for allocating lottery money, agreed to spend £87,000 on the 70-year-old brick hall, at which generations have held harvest festivals and fetes.

Duke cuts rents by 15 per cent

By CLAUDIA JOSEPH

THE Duke of Northumberland has agreed to cut his tenant farmers' rent by 15 per cent. The duke, 41, who is one of Britain's wealthiest men, has offered the 170 tenants, who pay between £55 and £65 an acre, the choice of a rent decrease or improvements on their farms.

He told them: The last 18 months have been the worst in living memory. Poor weather and low yields, on top of a high pound, low prices and BSE, have produced a rotten

The duke's family seat is Alnwick Castle, set in 100,000 acres, as well as Syon House in London and a shooting lodge in Berwickshire. The tenants' farms range from 200 to 1,000 acres and Northumberland Estates has a turnover of

☐ EU talks on farm spending were postponed until Thursday after France protested that some proposed reforms were

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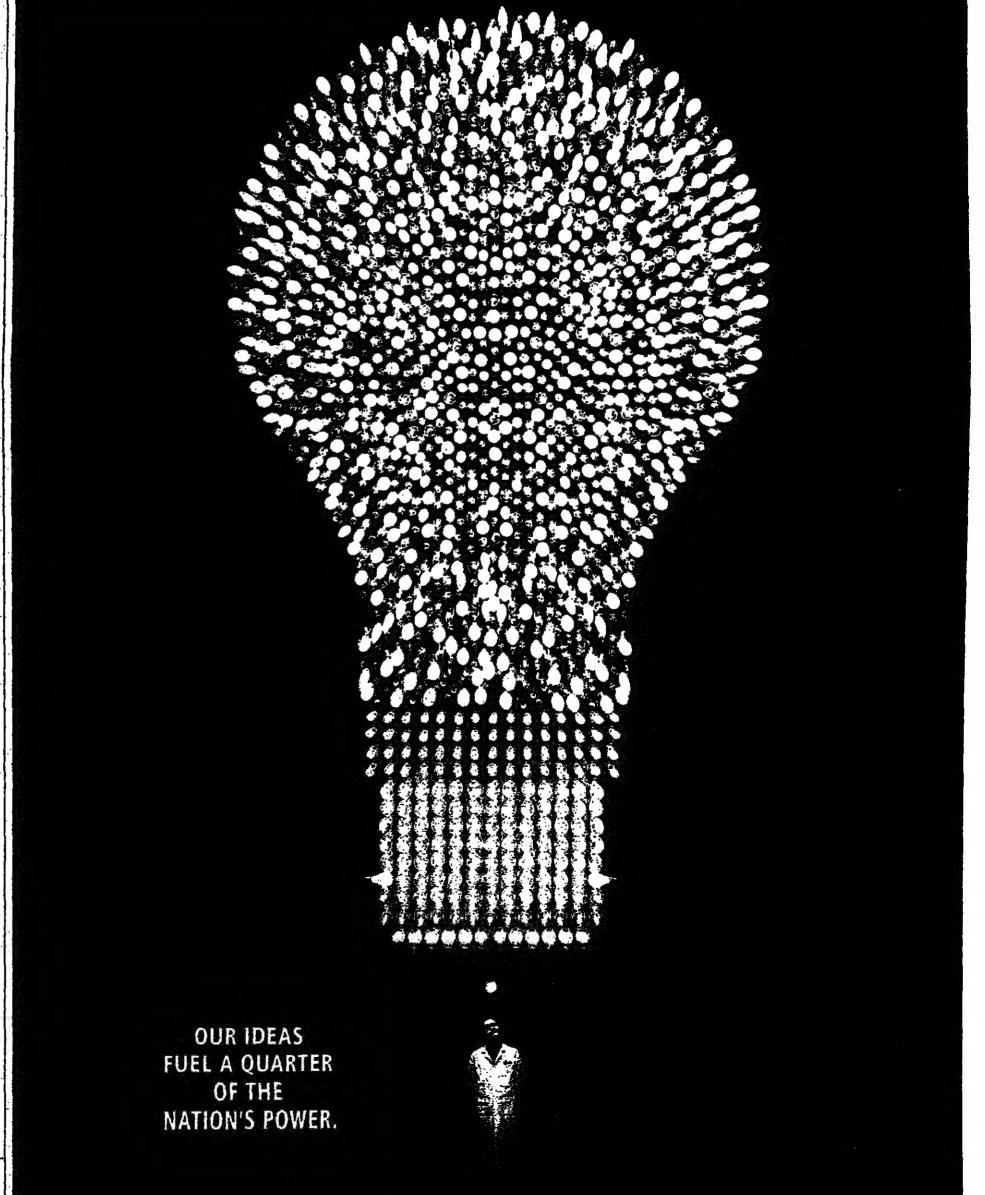
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Lottery Scandal

Could it have been you?

he lottery begins at birth.

The odds are, one in three babies will be born into poverty.

This is not the developing world we're talking about. This is here, now, in Britain.

The downward spiral that leaves thousands of children excluded from society is random, relentless and no fault of their own.

Where you happen to be born can have a profound effect on the rest of your life.

The highest concentration of disadvantaged children can be found in only 59 local authority districts in the country. They may be no-go areas to some, but they can be no-exit areas for the young people who have to grow up there.

How can we gamble with the future of children this way?

With 3.3 million existing in families with less than half the average national income, children are now the largest group caught in the poverty trap.

So where does the buck stop?

With government? Or with each and every one of us?

The Children's Society believes we all have a responsibility to the next generation.

And with your help, we can do something to redress the balance between the 'haves' and the 'have nots'.

When the disadvantaged become the disappeared

Every year thousands of children fall through the net.

In the local areas, where these children are concentrated, more than 25% of them will begin life as underweight babies, they have a 30% higher mortality rate and they are twice as likely to die in childhood accidents.

These same children are disadvantaged in education. They can become disruptive in class. Unable to cope, schools exclude them in their thousands-150,000 exclusions in a single year. The majority are children from poorer homes.

Without a decent start in life, many young people never catch up.

Truancy in these deprived districts is currently running at four times the national average.

While one in four pupils at secondary schools near rundown housing estates, leave at sixteen without a single GCSE, five times the national average.

The vast majority of underage pregnancies can be traced back to the same areas.

4,700 girls of school age fell pregnant in 1998 - more than any other country in Europe.

Uneducated, unhappy young people will buck the system when they feel abandoned by it.

Many turn to crime. And pay the price.

Britain locked up 11,000 teenagers in 1998. That's a 40% increase in just five years — a depressing European record.

A staggering 43,000 children run away each year.

Life on the streets can be desperate and dangerous, with the real risk of being caught up with drugs and prostitution, simply to survive.



Beating the odds

Many of the problems children face are complex and interlinked.

The way we see it, they demand an holistic approach.

There is no quick fix. But there is progress to be proud of. Last year The Children's Society helped nearly 40,000 children, directly.

We are the only national charity working with youngsters on remand in prison.

We were the first to open a refuge for those at risk on the streets, the first to develop programmes in primary schools to proactively prevent exclusions and the first to introduce family centres.

Whilst our resources are modest, the impact we make on children's lives is not.

Helping them realise their full potential, enables them to act as catalysts for change within their own neighbourhood.

The Children's Society is their advocate, advisor, friend.

44 When Mum left we stayed with Dad. He couldn't get work so they took our home. Social Services put us to one of them bed and breakfast places. Dad and my brother were unstairs, I was on another floor. It was horrible. The guy in the next room started touching me. One night he tried to rape me. They were going to put me and my brother in care. It was the people at The Children's Society that stopped it. They talked to me lots about what happened. And they helped us get a flat. Life savers, that's what Dad calls them. 77

Karen aged 14

As a Voluntary Society of The Church of England and The Church in Wales, we reach out unconditionally to children when they are at their most vulnerable.

And they are nearer than you think.

The vast majority of you live within a short car ride of real poverty. To see exactly how close you are to the most deprived areas in England, Scotland and Wales, you can phone for our Lottery Scandal Map.

Being bom in the wrong place can extinguish every opportunity a child might have in life.

Which is why your support is invaluable. By helping to fund our work, you will be helping those children who have never had a decent change.

It shouldn't be a lottery.

Help us put it right.

Please call now for your free copy of our Lottery Scandal Map or to make a donation. Thank you.

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Twin gets £2.5m for error that blighted her life

A GIRL aged ten whose intelligent mind is trapped inside a gravely disabled body was awarded £2.5 million yester-

The High Court was told that Katie Whitley's disabilities were caused in the half hour between her twin sister's birth and her own. Mr Justice Bunerfield said that although the case was a tragic one, the Whitleys were a "delightful family" who had "lir up the sometimes gloomy surroundings" of London's Law Courts. The girls were born on April 13 1000 of Medican April 13

The girls were born on April 13, 1988, at Maidstone Hospital, Kent. The elder child, Emily, was born naturally and was well but Katie's delivery proved so difficult that doctors had to carry out a Caesarean section.

In the half hour between the first birth and the operation, Katie nearly died because she was starved of oxygen. Doctors saved her life but she was so disabled that she was doorned to a life of total reliance on care. Although she fully understands what is going on around her, she has difficulty speaking and has limited mobility.

Katie was taken into court in her wheelchair yestenday by her parents. Denys, 44, a computer consultant, and Vivienne, 42. Emily and her eldest sister, Clea, 13, sat near her.

David Richardson, the family's counsel, told the court that the half-hour delay in delivering Katie was something that would have grave consequences for the rest of her life. But despite her disabilities, she was a cheerful little girl who was enormously fortunate in having such a loving

A slip-up at birth tragically diverted the

regrets for the events which gave rise to this claim". Although no amount of money

could purn back the clock, Mr Havers said, the settlement fig-

ure was "large on any view

and the health authority hoped that it would ensure a

happy and fulfilled life for Katie.

the triumph of hope over adversity," he said, wishing the family "every fortune". After the hearing, Mr Whit-

ley said that he was pleased that the case had been settled

without the need for a contest-

to get the whole thing settled in a way which makes sure Katie will be properly cared for for the rest of her life, with-

out ceaseless battles over her

education and care," he said.

"She will have her own re-

"We are obviously delighted

"This is another example of

diverted the paths of two sisters, reports

Ian Murray

family behind her. Katie suffers from dystonic paraplegia, which means that she cannot stand or walk unaided, can scarcely speak and has uncontrollable spasms, although her intelligence is not affected.

Nerve cells die without oxygen and babies at birth are especially vulnerable to being deprived of it.

A baby's brain cannot tolerate a total lack of oxygen for

A barry's brain cannot tolerate a total lack of oxygen for more than about five minutes. When the supply is limited, cells that control different functions are destroyed progressively.

Through her father, Katie.

Through her father, Kane, of Newcastle in Co Down, Northern Ireland, had sued the West Kent Health Authority, the managers of Maidstone Hospital.

The health authority, the

court was told, admitted 95 per cent liability for Katie's injuries in October 1997 and had agreed to settle her claim for £2.5 million. Philip Havers, QC, for the

Philip Havers, QC, for the authority, also paid tribute to the "remarkable devotion" of Katie's family. "We on this side wish them well," he said. Liability had been "admitted to a very, very substantial

extent", he said and his clients



The bust of Edward Salter, bought by the Ashmolean

Sculpture saved by art charity

By DALYA ALBERGE, ARTS CORRESPONDENT

AN IMPORTANT 18th-century sculpture was saved for the nation yesterday when it was acquired by the Asimolean Museum for £325,000.

Without the intervention of the art charity, the National Art Collections Fund (NACF), the sculpture would have gone abroad. The Boston Museum of Fine Arts is bothieved to have been among collectors clamouring to buy it if the Oxford museum had been unable to raise the money.

The marble image of a suryear-old boy is by Michael Rysbrack (1694-1770), the Antwerp-born master who established himself in the 1720s as the most eminent sculptor working in England. He remains an artist revered for his rectional virtuosity.

technical variousity.

The scripture of the boy—
particularly rare in that it was
not created posthumously—
represents Edward Salter,
who went on to become Chaptian to Henry, Duke of

Glocoester.

Its purchase would not have been possible without the NACF, which is becoming increasingly frustrated that it

is almost singlehandedly saving the nation's treasures. The fund is at the forefront of critics of the Heritage Lottery Fund over its decision to abandon works of art in favour of other causes because its own

funding has been slashed.

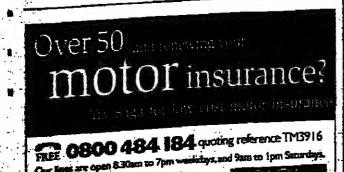
When the lottery fund rejected the Ashmolean's application for £120,000, the NACF was forced to increase its offer from £96,000 to £170,000.

Sir Nicholas Goodison, chairman of the NACF, which has been saving works for public collections since 1903, said: 'This is the fifth time that we have increased our grant to secure an outstanding work of art which the Heritage Lottery Fund has not been able to support.

"If action isn't taken soon, future generations will wonder why on earth the opportunities were lost and why there was so little public and political outery at the time."

Heritage groups are oppos-

the of ing plans by the Ashmolean to drape large advertising banwithout mers outside the museum. They are concerned about the impact on the architecture.





Katie Whitley yesterday: she nearly died at birth after her brain was starved of oxygen

Game warden 'hid evidence of murder'

FROM ROBIN LODGE IN NAIROBI

THE former Kenyan game warden accused of murdering Julie Ward lied and suppressed evidence to deflect suspicion of his involvement, the Nairobi High Court was told usetterday.

Simon Ole Makailah's conduct after the disappearance of the British tourist "can only cast a deep suspicion of his motives", Salim Dhanji, the prosecutor, said in his opening address.

Mr Makallah is accused of murdering Miss Ward, 28, at the Masai Mara game reserve in September 1988. He was the first to reach the site where Miss Ward's remains were found.

An initial Kenyan police investigation concluded that Miss Ward had committed suicide by setting herself alight and that her body had then been torn apart by animals. A police post-mortem report was later found to have been altered to remove references to the body having been cut up. Miss Ward's father, John, who

was in court yesterday, has devoted the past decade to discovering the truth about his daughter's death.

daughter's death.
As a result of his efforts, and the involvement of detectives from Scotland Yard, two game wardens were tried for Miss Ward's murder in 1992, but acquitted. Mr Makallah was a key prosecution witness at that

The case continues



Julie Ward: killed on



Owen embraces Eurosceptics

Pro-Europe but anti-euro group says it would share platform with hardline sceptics, writes James Landale

LORD OWEN, head of the new pro-European but antisingle currency lobby group. admitted at its launch yesterday that he was prepared to share a platform with Tory Eurosceptics.

New Europe is designed to provide a voice for pro-Europe-ans opposed to the euro who do not want to link themselves with right-of-centre Eurosceptics. Lord Owen, the former Labour Foreign Secretary who led the breakaway Social Democratic Party, insisted the group was deliberately distinguishing itself from existing Eurosceptics, "We are quite unashamedly and unavowedly supporters of the European Union," he said.

But he did not rule out sharing the platform with anti-EU Tory MPs such as Bill Cash during a referendum cam-paign. "If I'm opposed to the single currency at that stage. I would be ready to join with others to campaign," he said. New Europe, in its state-

ment of principles, also admits ly" with Business for Sterling. an anti-euro grouping of indus-try and City interests.

The launch came as the Government began to put into practice plans announced last week to prepare Britain for potential membership. Stephen Byers, the Trade and Industry Secretary, told a pro-Europe business conference that he wanted the Government's enterprise fund to be paid in euros. Businesses will also be able to pay patent fees in euros and submit accounts in euros.

The advisory council of New Europe comprises 14 political figures. businessmen, economists and journalists who believe that Britain's membership should not be seen as inevitable. They said: "We do not say never but we cannot foresee, at present, a change in circumstances that would persuade us of the case for joining. We believe that there are significant economic dangers for Britain in joining the euro that would seriously compromise our competitiveness. We are convinced that Britain will continue to flourish within the

EU but outside euroland."

Lord Owen said: "There is a different way for Europe, which is more decentralised. more diverse, which is compatible with the treaties. We think that is a natural place for Britain."The advisory council also includes Lord Healey, the former deputy Labour leader, who said: "You don't have to be xenophobic, nationalistic or right-wing to worry about the

single currency."
Lord Prior, the former Tory
Cabinet minister, said: "I would not have broken with my Europhile friends if I did not believe that staying out of the euro is a matter of supreme importance."

Mary Ann Sieghart, Assist-ant Editor of The Times, who is also on the council, said she had never wanted to join the Eurosceptic "club". But once she discovered other pro-Europeans with "doubts about a single currency", she thought it right to "break cover". Other members of the advisory council include Roger Bootle, managing director of Capital Economics; Ruth Lea, head of the policy unit at the Institute of



Single-minded about the single currency: Lord Prior, Mary Ann Sieghart and Lord Owen at the launch of New Europe

Directors; Sir Ewen Fergusson, former Ambassador to Paris: Martin Taylor, former chief executive of Barclays Bank; Lord Sainsbury of Preston Candover, former chairman of J Sainsbury; and Janet

Bush, New Europe director and until recently Economics Correspondent of The Times. The new group was greeted sceptically by pro-Europeans. to dress up the anti-euro camp

and make them more respectable." Colin Sharman, chairman of KPMG International, said: "Being in the EU but not being in the euro is roughly the equivalent of being halfpregnant. The proposition really is half-baked and business

will not wear it." ☐ New Europe website: www. new-europe.co.uk. E-mail: info@ new-europe co.uk

Business, page 31

MPs in attack on ministers' arrogance

MPs are expected to demand more independence for select committees after growing complaints about ministerial arrogance (Philip Webster

Ministers are also being warned against try-ing to intimidate backbenchers in an attempt to get an easy ride from the men of all 27 select committees are being urged to put forward their ideas for reform to the Liaison Select Committee.There was particular anger recently over the Foreign Affairs Select Committee report on arms to Africa which was rubbished by Downing Street before it was published.

Conservative as well as Labour chairmen are calling for the whips to lose control of appointing members of the committees, which is seen as the key way of the executive

"I can't tell you how many times having the right information at the right time has made the difference between a sale and "I'll think about it." When I'm showing a property, I make lots of calls. I also use the Nokia Communicator for all my contact information, and I keep track of appointments in the calendar. I used to need a big briefcase to carry all my papers. Now everything

fits in my pocket. And if I need something unexpectedly, I call the office and have them fax me a floor plan, for instance. Often my clients are as interested in my Communicator as they are in the property. I'm sold on it - and some of my clients have bought it too."

Johanna Radeborn

Lords need more power, not less sion on the future of lish property law. the House of Lords that met for the first time yesterday has a choice. It can ei-

ther deliver the minimalist package which the Government wants, or it can think

The Government, and most Labour MPs, would like something not very different from the present House but without hereditary peers. It would remain a revising chamber. and might have a spe-cial role in relation

blies, Europe and RIDDELL the Human Rights ON POLITICS
Act. But that would be to miss a big oppor-

The central issue is powers. The Government's White Paper addresses the paradox that the Lords possesses theoretical powers almost as great as the Commons (apart from financial Bilist but observes self-denying ordinances. The White Paper suggests that the current understandings about self-restraint might be institutionalised, leaving the powers intact but restricting the circomstances when they might be used, or the theoretically available powers might be reduced, though they might be used more often.

This passage was frequently quoted in the two-day, 90-plus speaker debate in the Lords last week. This was the usual mixture of the interesting, the reflective, the confused, the complacent and the downright daft. Lord Bel-haven and Stenton, whose tithe dates to 1647, offered the thought that "democracy is new and comparatively untried. We do not know what will come of it over the decades and centuries to come". Lord Norrie, with a mere 42-year-old title, argued that hereditary peers sat by right of custom, a principle of Eng-

On a more serious level, Lords Cranborne and Richard, the last two Leaders of the Lords, focused on powers. As Lord Cranborne argued: "Paradoxically, a more authoritative Lords would help the Commons to perform better by forcing it to legislate better and to hold the Government to account more rigorously."

Lord Richard, in the best contribution from the Labour side. noted that the lack Lords cannot peras it should. So "in

this country we have virtually a unicameral system". On his view, "the aim of reform should be to strengthen the second chamber to the point where it has the legitimacy vis-à-vis the Government of the day to carry out its functions properly but not to threaten the position of the Commons". There should continue to be independent members and no one party should be able to command a majority. But such a second chamber would be bound to become more troublesome to the Com-

There is also a strong case, as Lord Lamont of Lerwick argued, for the Lords to be given the role of "constitutional long stop" — with the right to insist, by a qualified majority of perhaps two thirds, that consti-tutional Bills should be considered by a referendum. As Lord Lamont concluded: "If this House is to be liberated from its inhibitions, it should not be afraid to demand more powers." The Wakeham com-mission now has the chance to make a reformed second chamber a central part of a new constitutional settlement rather than just produce a po-

and



Communicator

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MARCH 1

Police chiefs 'are shelving racial issues'

Government study criticises lack of action on relations with ethnic minorities, Stewart Tendler reports

CHIEF constables were accused yesterday of shelving race relations reforms and ig-noring calls by the Home Of-

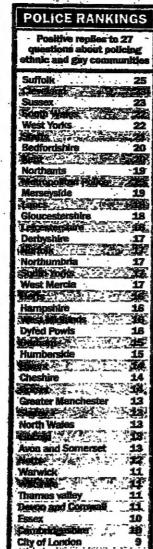
fice to take the issue seriously. The atrack came in a study by Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary to check on progress made after a report by the inspectorate in 1997 warned forces that they must modernise their race and comminumity relations policies.

The new study drawn up Dan Crompton, an inspector of constabulary specialising in race issues, found "a lack of visibility by chief officers on the issue of community and race relations" and that progress has been less than satisfactory with many recommendations of the initial report) largely sidelined and few forces placing the issue high on their agenda".

The study, Winning the Race Policing Plural Communities Revisited, found that less than half the forces ran checks on racism among staff; that more than a quarter run no checks on the loss of staff. from ethnic backgrounds; and that some officers used racist language. Only a quarter of forces were found to have carried out a survey across the whole force on community and race relations work.

The study also found that poin promotion exams for racist. sexist or homophobic behaviour, and that there was no provision for "negative marking" in national exams for sergeant and inspector ranks. The exams include written sections and tests in mock incidents.

The report also found that training in awareness of ethnic differences, the investigation of race crime and the use of stop and search policies have all been marginalised.



national work on race and community relations, but the report said that too often individual chief constables have ignored ACPO work.

Yesterday Mr. Crompton The Association of Chief Pol-said that he was disappointed for Officers is praised for its that forces had failed to take ac-

tion after the original report. despite the fact that they knew he would return to review their work and that the Macpherson report could be highly critical of police.

He gave warning that, unless forces recognised the im-portance of community rela-tions, communities could become antagonistic and diffi-

John Newing, the president of the ACPO and the chief constable of the Derbyshire force, acknowledged the report's recognition that some good work was being done, but admitted there was still a great deal

He said that ACPO was preparing a racial diversity strategy drawing on the best work going on in all forces, aimed at eliminating racism through education, training, positive management and "stringent disciplinary measures".

The Police Federation of England and Wales, which represents 125,000 lower ranks, said that officers were responding positively to race

Fred Broughton, the federation's chairman, said that progress had been hampered by chief officers focusing "slavishly on performance targets for solving crimes such as burglary and car theft, efficiency savings and withdrawing officers from street patrols.

Mr Broughton said that the majority of the public still held police in high regard, despite the results of the Macpherson The National Black Police

Association said that the new report's conclusions were not surprising, and that there was a need for immediate improve-

US chief sacked, page 15



Small target at a Met wins praise big risk of attack for its progress

minority community but its members are suffering an increasing number of racist

The police force in the largely rural county has failed, however, to respond to the

In the Inspector of Constabulary's report, Cumbria Constabulary admits to having taken no action on 20 of the 29 questions posed in the survey on race-related policing, and says it has no community and race-relations strategy.

Colin Phillips, the Chief Constable, in a bland press release issued yesterday, said: We are always looking to improve and we will do all we can to ensure that we demonstrate fairness and equality in the way we use our powers."

Out of a population of 490,145 in Cumbria, there are only 492 black people, 492 Letters, page 23
Law report, page 41
Asian people and 984 people of other ethnic minority origins. They mostly have homes

CUMBRIA has a tiny ethnic and businesses in Carlisle or along the coast in towns such as Workington. The latest Home Office fig-

ures show that the number of

racial incidents in Cumbria rose to 46 in 1997-98, compared with 17 in 1993-94. This means that a member of an ethnic minority in Cumbria has a one in 50 chance of being attacked by racists.

Mark Johnson, a race-relations researcher at De Montfort University, said: "The police in Cumbria need to recognise that race may be a motive for an attack even when there is no prima-facie evidence."

Dr Johnson, director of the Mary Seacole unit which conducts research on racism and is named after a black heroine who was a nurse during the Crimean War, said: "Some racists are not prepared to contribute to their communities and find it easier instead to hurl abuse at people from the ethnic community who are prepared to work hard."

By Stewart Tendler, crime correspondent

THE Metropolitan Police and its Commissioner, Sir Paul Condon, won praise for their race relations strategy yester-day, less than a week after the force was heavily criticised by the Stephen Lawrence inquiry

report. Scotland Yard is one of four police forces commended for progress on race relations and good leadership by a national study. The others are Bedfordshire, West Yorkshire and South Wales.

All three are in the top ten for racial awareness of the 43 forces in England and Wales. according to a league table drawn up by Winning the Race: Policing Plural Communities Revisited, produced by the Inspectorate of Constabulary. The study charts progress in race relations since a report published in October 1997. A team led by Dan Crompton, a former Chief Constable of Nottinghamshire, visited a sample of 14 forces.

They also wrote to every oth-

er force in England and Wales to see how they had responded to the original report's recom-

mendations. Cleveland. Hertfordshire and Sir Paul's force won praise for work on forward thinking about population changes. Leicestershire was also commended by Mr Crompton, as was South

Wales for training policy.

But Merseyside and the West Midlands police, both big urban forces, were criticised for their overall lack of progress. The survey showed that the West Midlands force had no race and community relations strategy although it has the second biggest ethnicminority community after London. Merseyside did not have policies to support staff from ethnic minorities

Mr Crompton also criticised Cumbria and North Yorkshire, both forces with relatively small ethnic-minority communities, for their failure to adopt new policies.

NEWS IN BRIEF GP denies five more murders

The family doctor accused of murdering 15 patients denied killing five of them yesterday. Harold Shipman, 53, answered "not guilty" at Manchester Crown Court as the five charges were put to him while his wife, Primrose, watched without apparent

Dr Shipman has already denied killing four other patients on his panel at his sur-gery in Hyde, Greater Manchester, and forging the will of one of them. He has been committed for trial at Crown Court on those charges. The rest of the charges will be considered at a committal hearing next week. All the cases relate to middle-aged or elderly women from the Hyde area. His trial is due to start on

Pool death fine

Michael Westmore, the owner of the Pentire Hotel in Newquay, Cornwall has been fined £8,000 after a six-yearold holidaymaker died in the hotel pool in 1997. Bodmin magistrates were told that the water was too cloudy for the boy to be seen drowning.

Eton funeral

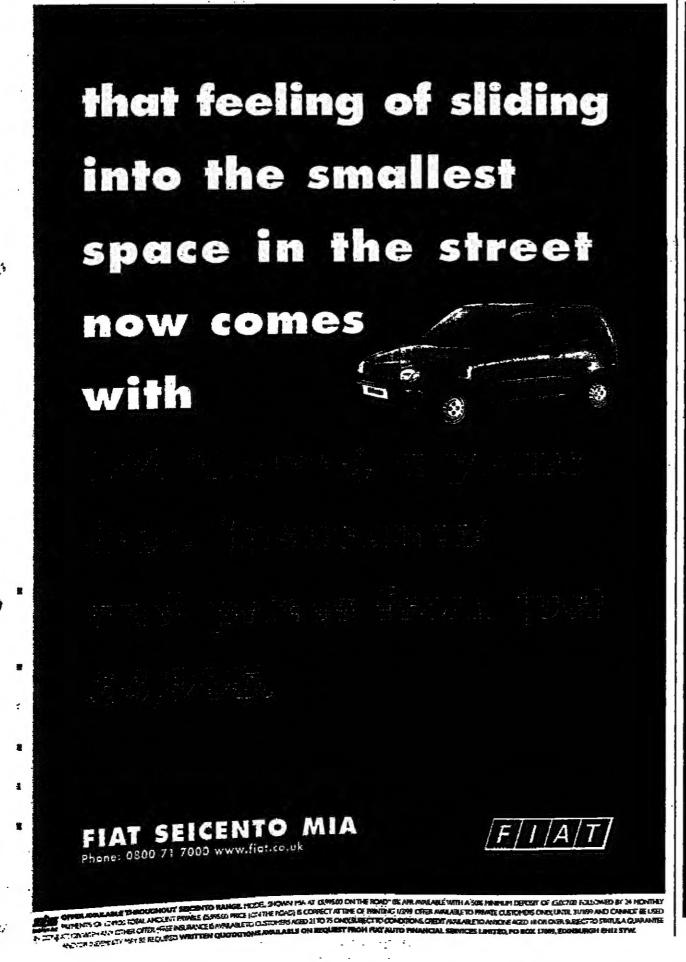
Eton schoolboys and family friends packed into Christ Church, Esber, Surrey, for the funeral of Nicholas Taylor, found hanged in his room at the college. The order of serv-ice for the 15-year-old cricket fan was entitled "Batting Order for Our Darling Nick".

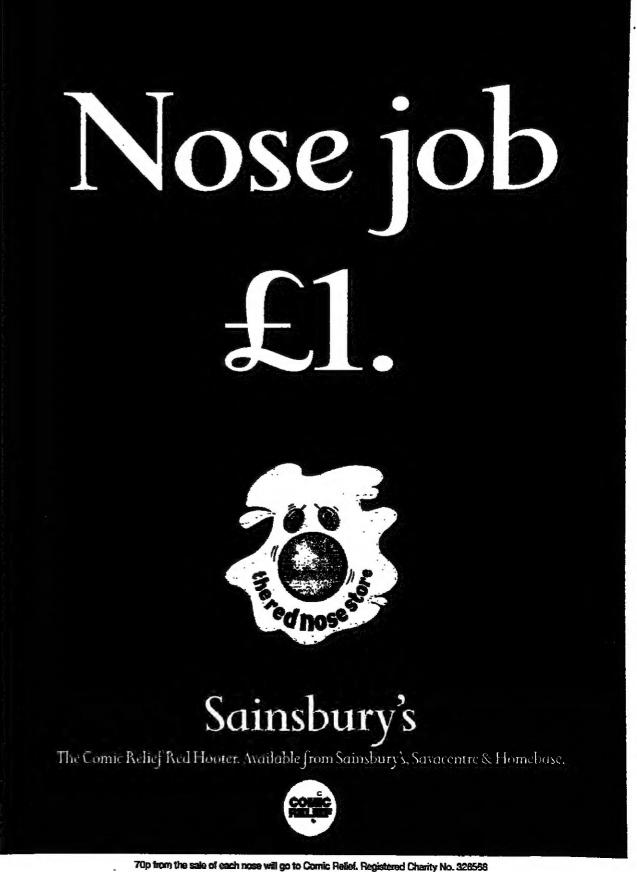
Letter bomb

A woman aged 18 and her baby were taken to hospital suffering from shock after a letter bomb exploded at their home in Pitsea. Essex, shatter ing windows. Bomb disposal experts searched the area. Two male occupants were not injured in the incident.

Snail handicap A rare spail, the 2mm Vertigo

augustior, threatens to thwart plans for a multimillion-pound golf complex designed by Greg Norman at Doonbeg. Co Clare, Environmentalists have launched three appeals against the decision to approve the development.





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Bulletins ready to fly in battle of teatime news

Channel 5 takes up new position before ratings war with BBC and ITN, reports

CHANNEL 5 marshalled its forces yesterday in readiness to join the battle of the teatime news programmes. The station announced that it would bring forward its 7pm programme by an hour, going head to head against the BBC's Six O'Clock News.

Carol Midgley

The two will fight for the attentions of viewers, hoping to retain them at 6.30pm when ITN joins the fray with Trevor McDonald and its replacement for News at Ten, the Evening News, which starts on

For the BBC and Channel 5, which won permission yesterday for its 5 News to occupy the 6pm slot from March 15, the conflict will be as much a war of the sexes as of news values and presentation. Channel is relying on its presenter-Kirsty Young's appeal to lure viewers away from the BBC, whose revamped bulletin will be fronted by Huw Edwards from May. "We're banking on the fact that more people would like to ack kirsty from would like to see Kirsty's face at teatime than Huw Edwards's," an insider said.

The BBC, however, is confident that Edwards, a 37-yearold Welshman, will soon establish himself as a "housewives" choice" with his affable manner. He was chosen to replace a group of newscasters in an overhaul of BBC bulletins.

The Channel 5 insider claimed that only months ago the BBC had tried to poach Young, 30, to front the Six O'Clock News. But it will be difficult for 5 News to make an impression on its rival's ratings. it has only 400,000 to 500,000 viewers daily compared with 5.8 million for the BBC's pro-

A BBC spokesman said: "It is very flattering that ITV is





cause of the Six O'Clock News. They are obviously very worried about our relaunch in May but they are reducing choice for viewers in their chase for ratings."

Dawn Airey, director of pro-grammes for Channel 5, said: The move of News at Ten and the relaunch of Channel 4



ers examine the scheduling of their news. Our research indicated that our audience would like us to offer them the evening news as early as

ITN is also planning an onslaught of colour to enhance its bulletin's appeal. The traditional blues of News at Ten are

reds and purples, creating a "familiar vet modern feel". The design is by Simon Jago, who revamped the Channel 4 News studio last year and cre-

ated the set for 5 News. A spokesman for ITN said the evening news programme would retain, with Trevor Mc-Donald, some of its traditions,

mous "And finally" item at the end. A late-night news at 11pm will be fronted by Dermot

Murnaghan. The spokesman said that the channel had wanted a complete change of look, but added: "We still have a feature of blue through the entire back-

Nigel Dacre, Editor of ITN, said: "In many ways, the spirit of News At Ten will live on inthe new programmes but, at the same time, the new schedule has allowed us to modern-. ise and revitalise our ap-

Murnaghan will stand in for McDonald when he is away, and Karie Derham, the ITN media correspondent. will stand in for Murnaghan. ☐ When Trevor McDonald closes with a final "And finally" on Friday, Sky News will leap into what it sees as a market gap by launching its own loom news programme. BSkyB, an associate company of News International, owner of The Times, yesterday announced that it will start Sky

Bafta sets the scene for Oscars sequel

ARTS CORRESPONDENT

THE British films Shakespeare in Love and Elizabeth dominate nominations for the 51st British Academy Film Awards. In a virtual repeat of the Oscar nominations, the two films are named in almost every category.

In the shortlist announced vesterday by the actress Kate Winslet at the British Academy of Film and Television Arts. Shakespeare in Love and Elizabeth are nominated for 15 and 12

among others, best direction, best actss, best actor and best film.

Geoffrey Rush is nominated as best supporting actor in both films. Shakespeare in Love also secures a best supporting actor nomination for Tom Wilkinson, as well as nominations for best actor for Joseph Fiennes, best supporting actress for Dame Judi Dench and best screenplay for Sir Tom Stoppard and Marc Norman.

There are a number of nominations for Little Voice, including best actor for

seedy nightclub agent was overlooked in the Oscar nominations. Brenda Blethyn, also up for an Oscar, is nominated for best supporting actress title for Little Voice. Jane Horrocks, nominated for best actress in the stime film, is competing against three further Oscar nominees: Emily Watson for Hilary and Jackie, Gwyneth Paltrow for Shakespeare in Love.

and Cate Blanchett for Elizabeth. Steven Spielberg's film, Saving Private Ryan, and The Truman Show are

film category.

Ms Winslet said: This year it really does feel like it's been a great year for British film." Tim Angel, chairman of Bafta, said: "I believe today's nominations are a true reflection of the state of the British industry."

The Bafta awards ceremony will be held at the Business Design Centre in North London on April 11, and be televised that evening on BBCI. The Oscar winners are announced on March 21.



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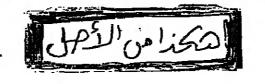
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We still need Smiley's people says Le Carré

The Cold War is over but the spy writer believes the Secret Service has a vital role, reports Michael Evans

think the great burden of intel-

ligence work will be counter-

terrorist, from wherever the

terrorist threat comes. It will

also be concerned with interna-

tional crime on a grand scale."

The author, whose latest novel, Single & Single, has just been published, worked

Last month he ended a longstanding mystery when he revealed that George Smiley.

his most famous fictional hero celebrated in such books

as Smiley's People, was not

modelled on the former MI6

chief Sir Maurice Oldfield, as

had been supposed. He said

that the character had been

partly based on the late John

Bingham, the 7th Baron Clan-

morris. Bingham, who served

for both MIS and MI6.

the end of the Cold War and

now has an annual budget of

about £150 million and a staff

is David Cornwell, poured

scorn on Western govern-ments that had allowed the

Cold War to continue for so

long. He said: "We failed to embrace the former Soviet

empire. We failed to give them

ful expectation on our side, par-

ticularly the American side,

that if we gave them enough pairs of jeans and enough rock

music and had McDonald's

there, somehow they would

find private enterprise for

"They didn't do that. They

"Instead, there was a shame-

Le Cauré, whose real name

of fewer than 2,000.

their dignity.

SPIES should not come in from the cold, despite East-West détente, the spy writer John le Carré said. The former M16 intelligence officer declared in a rare lecture that spies are needed more than

Le Carré, who flourished as an author during the Cold War era of espionage and in-trigue, said that when the world's power blocs were split between East and West, spying was an easier business. Now, with the former Soviet Union fragmented, Britain's spies had a tough challenge to keep pace with the proliferation of problems in many of the world's smaller countries.

"There is plenty of scope for intelligence work," he said during a lecture at the Liverpool Unity Theatre. "In the future, I

intelligence community as Lord Clandestine In the literary lecture, Le Carre said: The secret services simply have to remain responsive and responsible and very much under the control of parliamentary democracy. I don't think there is a case for saying they should not exist

We expect them to find out who is going to blow us up next and if they don't do it, we say they are inefficient, but we don't say that we should abol-

MI6, like other sections of Le Carré said spies must the security and intelligence



المكذا من الأعل

Anna Molinari is feted on the catwalk after her Blumarine show in Milan yesterday

Milan shows no fear when it comes to fur

FROM DEBORAH BRETT IN MILAN

ITALIAN fashion has never succumbed to anti-fur pres-sure and the women of Milan refuse to venture out in winter without their fur coats. Anna Molinari's diffusion label, Blumarine, continued the love affair with a show yesterday that had mink trimmings on scoop-neck jumpers, coat collars, jumper cuffs, even inside parka

hoods. The soft-sell came in

every colour - from candy

floss pink and sky blue to ici-

Blumarine girls still haven't grown up and yester-day looked as if they had been trawling through their mother's dressing room - in bright-red lips and green eyeshadow thickly applied. The vear of influence was impossible to pin down: Molinari had decided to pick and choose from Twenties flapper girl, Fifties prom queen and Seventies rock chick.

made from thick elastic strips and pouch bags. Armani's signature detailing came only towards the end of the show, with beading - normally seen edging scarves and jacket lapels sewn in strips to the top edge of nude bodystockings. Giorgio Armani was also in age-defying mood yester-

day: at the age of 64, he has made his younger line even younger. There was not a

suit in sight, let alone his

trademark beige, at the Em-

porio Armani show. Instead. next winter, fans of Mr Mini-

malist will be in a pared-

down version of urban chic.

colour, with an abundance of aqua, turquoise, sea green

and red, but this was only for

accessories: the core clothes

were in every shade of grey. With the emphasis on

sportswear, there were at-

tachable hoods, Velcro-fas-

tening trousers, and leather

jackets with elongated arm

zips. Accessories for the ur-

ban warrior included shoes

The theme may have been



Plankton could help to reverse global warming

By Nigel Hawkes, science editor

FERTILISING the sea with iron filings dramatically accelplankton, which absorb large amounts of greenhouse gases, an experiment in the Southern

Ocean has shown. Researchers who had spent the month spreading filings over 19 square miles of Antaretic waters 2,500 miles south-west of New Zealand returned to Wellington yesterday entirustastic about the results.

Rob Murdoch, of the New Zealand National Institute of Water and Atmospheric Re-search, said: "Not only did the numbers of phytoplankton bloom extensively but they were responsible for absorption of a significantly greater amount of carbon dioxide during the study period compared with the seas outside the area," he said. The plankton in the growing patch also produced significant quantities of gases known to be important

The aim of the research was to see whether the filings would replenish stocks of plankton, which form the foun-

dation of the ocean food chain, and to discover whether the microscopic piants captured ex cess carbon dioxide from the atmosphere and contributed to cloud build-up.

The late John Martin, an

American oceanographer, theorised in 1995 that phytoplank-ton needed from in order to take nitrogen and phosphate from seawater, just as farm crops need trace minerals such as zinc and manganese.

experiments showed that half a ton of iron filings triggered 30-fold to 40-fold increases in plankton stocks over areas of up to 193 square miles. This resulted in up to 9,000 tons of carbon diexide being "locked up", and a three-fold increase in dimethyl sulphide particles, which have a key role in cloud formation.

Scientists believe that if the fertilisation could be done on a large enough scale in the Southern Ocean it could reduce the concentration of carbon dioxide in the Earth's atmosphere by between 6 per cent and 21 per cent, significantly cooling the planet.



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It's pure Scandinavian



US appeals for calm after raids on Israel border

THE United States yesterday sages to Israel, Syria and Lebanew crisis along Israel's northern border in an attempt to prevent tension in the region

The messages were sanc-tioned by Madeleine Albright, the Secretary of State, and reflected the gravity with which Washington views the situation after the killing on Sunday of an Israeli general, a subtack and Israel's vow of retaliation by land, sea and air against the Iranian-backed

Hezbollah guerrillas.
The American intervention came as Israel's security Cabinet met in emergency session and vowed instant and widescale action if Hezbollah fired more rockets into northern Galilee in retaliation for pun-

strikes were launched deep into Lebanon after the killing of General Erez Gerstein, two soldiers and Ilan Roeh, 32. One of Israel's most famous war correspondents. Mr Roeh was buried vesterday at a funeral attended by thousands.

Israeli officials, mindful of the American call and damaging international publicity in 1996, caused by Operation Grapes of Wrath — Israel's last widespread Lebanon offensive in which some 200 people were killed - said that the Israel Defence Force would not step up attacks if the guerrillas refrained from firing

rockets into Israel. That decision was not popular with many Israelis living in the northern area. They left shelters and sealed rooms at 2pm yesterday after an "all clear" ended an alert that had lasted 24 hours and ruined the start of the festival of Purim. Thousands fled homes and hotels to spend the holiday out of Katyusha rocket range. town of Kiryat Shmona urged the Government to launch a massive offensive.

After a three-hour Cabinet Binyamin Netannounced that Israel was ready to strike at more Hezbollah targets, but refused to order the immediate offensive demanded by some Cabinet members, including Avigdor Kahalani, his Interior Security Minister. There is a threat of escalating violence with Syria as President Assad keeps 35,000 troops in Lebanon.

The death of seven Israelis in a week has made Israel's Lebanon policy a key election issue, with Yossi Beilin, a leading member of the opposition Labour Party, heading a cam-



Civilians in buffer zone wait stoically for big offensive

THE war-weary residents of south Lebanon were nervously braced for the onslaught of the Israeli military mayesterday but the against the Hezbollah organsation failed to materialise. Hours after Brigadier-General Erez Gerstein was killed by Hezbollah guerrilstaged air raids in frontline areas as Israel vowed to unleash an air. sea and

eround offensive. Tension remains high throughout the occupied border zone. The skies above Tibnine were filled with the roar of Israeli Fl6 aircraft and the bozz of pilotless

In the village of Siddique. Mehdi Zuarour, 48, said: "It cannot get any worse for us than it already is here . . . we are used to being shelled by

ians were killed when Israel the 16-day Operation Grapes of Wrath in April 1996. "Forty-eight people from Siddiqine were killed in Qana. us?" said Mr Zaarout.

Schools were closed ver day and children were told to remain close to village

the brunt of Israeli shelling almost half the residents had fled in fear of an offensive.

We are afraid land it's very tense," said Nahla Sal-loum, 44, one of several women watching over children outside the village's bomb this is my village, my land and my country. The Israelis will never force me to leave." Maryam Zahwi, 20, said

that Israel would never defeat the Lebanese. They have their planes and missiles, but we have our resistance and our faith," she said.

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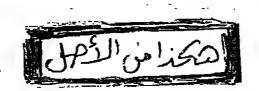
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*The World's Most Admired Companies, FORTUNE magazine, 26th October 1998.



WORLD IN BRIEF

Religious riots in Indonesia kill ten

Ambon, Indonesia: At least ten people died as new clashes between Christians and Muslims rocked the Indonesian Island of Ambon. Six people were tortured to death in one clash and another four were killed as security forces opened fire near a mosque. The official Antara news agency said the first deaths occurred after homemade bombs exploded. The agency added that low-ranking policemen had allegedly incited the mob.

Local journalists said the other incident happened at about dawn as Christians attacked the city's eastern Baru Merah distinction of the contraction of the contraction of the city's contraction of the contraction of the city's contraction of the c

trict and Muslims fought back. Security forces then arrived and opened fire, they said. One witness said the police opened fire without warning on Muslims leaving the al-Huda mosque. General Wiranto, the armed forces' commander, has launched

a crack anti-riot force to quell what he called the most "brutal rioting" in Indonesia's history. (Reuters)

Cuba dissidents on trial

Four of Cuba's most prominent political dissidents, including Vladimiro Roca, went on trial behind closed doors in Havana on charges of sedition stemming from the publication of a document in 1997 that criticised government policies (David Adams writes). Tight security was enforced to keep away demonstrators, and dissident groups in Cuba say at least 34 opposition activists have been rounded up by police recently to limit any possible protest. Others are under virtual house arrest.

Greek Ocalan protest

The statue of a Greek philoso-pher outside Athens University, right, has been blindfolded by art students to show their support for Abdullah Ocalan. the Kurdish leader. Turkey is to allow a Norwegian parliamentary delegation to attend Mr Ocalan's treason trial after turning down other international requests. Lars Rise, a Norwegian MP, said the invitation was made by Uhic Gurkan, the vice-president of Turkey's national assembly, on condition that the Norwegians did not call themselves observ-



Sydney terror warning

Sydney: The Islamic terrorist, Osama bin Laden, may target the Sydney Olympics next year because of Australia's friendship with the United States, Louis Freeh, the director of the FBI, said (David Watts writes). A large contingent of American athletes and spectators could make the Games an attractive target, said Mr Freeh, who is in Australia advising the Government on antiterrorism and anti-drug strategies. Australia has been free of

Rebels 'slaughter 1.000'

Freetown: About 1,000 civilians died, mostly murdered by rebels, during a six-week Revolutionary United Front occupation of Waterloo, a town near the Sierra Leonean capital, according to Ansumana Kargbo, a headman. He said most of those who died had fled into the bush when the rebels were chased from the capital last month. Troops from Ecomog, the Nigerian-led regional intervention force, backed by civil defence groups, retook Freenown last month and recaptured Waterloo last week. (AFP)

Mines treaty enforced



won the Nobel Peace Prize in 1997, urged all nations to ratify an anti-landmine treaty as it came into force yesterday, and hailed her award as a boost for the cause. Mrs Williams. co-ordinator of the International Campaign to Ban Landmines, said that 134 countries had signed and 65 had ratified the treaty, aimed at removing an estimated 100 million landmines in at least 60 countries. The treaty, concluded here in September 1997, was opened for signature in Ottawa the following December. (Reuters)

Seven die in rough seas

Lisbon: Seven crewmen died and one was missing last night after they abandoned their crippled cargo ship in rough seas off the Azores in the North Atlantic. The three remaining crew survived. A passing Japanese merchant vessel picked up four crew from a liferaft. The men had abandoned the Sky Bird, a container ship, officials said. However, one of the men in the raft was dead. Six other crew who jumped into the sea were found dead in the water, while a search went on for the missing man. (AP)

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Bonn warned

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Ocalan protest



rough sea.

THE TIMES TUESDAY MARCH 2 1999

Kosovo victims find death in bitter sanctuary

with the winter snow for the civilians of Gjare. Stranded by fighting on the precipitous slopes above the Llaka river, the 350 ethnic Albanian villagers. 170 of whom are younger than 18, are scratching an exist-ence in the open and freezing in the sub-zero night tempera-

The international community's empty threats and promises are little more than bitter memories,

Two days ago, Kosovo Liberation Army guerrilias moved into the area near their small community, about six miles north of the Kosovo-Macedonian border along the main

Pristina-Skopje highway.

A flurry of skirmishes in the preceding days had already robbed several hundred people of their homes,

On Sunday morning, four Serbian police drove into Gjare. The captain was killed and his three colleagues were wounded in the burst of gunfire that met them. The Serb response was pre-

dicable and unforgiving. Anti-aircraft guns and scores of infantry saturated the area with fire in a six-hour attack. Caught in the middle, Gjare's civilians fled a day's journey to the Llaka ravine, where they remain - toofrightened to return home. We have ended up here

through no choice of our own,"

Shiqrije, an Albanian woman,

said. "If it snows again we can

Anthony Loyd; at the Llaka ravine, hears echoes of broken promises as villagers battle to survive winter onslaught

only continue to stay here. I am afraid the Serbs would kill us if we returned home. The way I see it, I'd rather be dead in the snow than killed by the

After previous massacres in Kosovo, the terror and uncertainty of these people is very

Shiqrije, a mother of six, spoke with the life of her youngest child, a six-monthold girl, fading away beside her. "Look," she continued,

New Nato threat to Belgrade

Washington: Nato will attack Belgrade's forces if they kannch an offensive against "innocent villagers", William Cohen, the US Defence Secretary, said yesterday. Javier Solana, the Nato Secretary-General again asked both sides in the Kosovo crisis to make peace with each other. When asked if Nato was ready to strike Serb military targets before a March 15 deadline for negotiations to resume, he said "yes". (AFP)

pointing to the comatose porcelain face of the child, "my baby is dying. She is too cold. There is not enough food. She cannot even open her eyes any more." Death was close to many

there: the pregnant woman who lay sick and glassy-eyed on a blanket of straw (she was due to give birth three days ago); the 82-year-old man sprawled in the mud; Shiqrije's daughter, and others. Last October a deal was

agreed between the American special envoy, Richard Holbrooke, and Yugoslavia's President Milosevic, aimed at halt-ing the exodus of refugees. It was backed by the threat of Nato intervention, and stipulated that all Serb security forces should withdraw to barracks and abide by a ceasefire. Violations of the pact led to an escalation of Nato threats in the new year, and latterly the stalled negotiations at

Rambourillet. The refugees recall those promises with fatalism. "What can I say? What can I think? asked Shiqrije's husband. "If Nato wanted to intervene it would have done so. I didn't believe the October promise, and I don't believe them now.



The only thing left is for some of us to die here. Some will sur-vive to carry the fight on. May-be at the end we'll win some-

المتكذا من الدُّعل

Shortly after midday, two vehides from the Organisation for Security and Co-operation

autumn to verify the October accord, arrived on the scene. The monitors, members of

the 1,200 OSCE staff in the province, were well-intentioned, but appeared unable to help. They could not transport

in Europe, sent to Kosovo last two of the sicker babies, taken by journalists to Gjare for evacat Kacanik, for fear of aggravating the Serb police. Their

uation, to the nearby hospital task, after all, was only to monitor, as the afternoon chill set

Star of the East brings new light to Michelin firmament

FROM SUSAN BELL IN PARIS

A CHINESE restaurant on the Left Bank was awarded a covered Michelin star yesterday, making it the only Asian restaurant in France to hold such an honour in the new edition of the prestigious restau-

Chen-Soleil d'Est, a rosewood casis to a 1970s shopping complex in the capital's

The Oriental at the Dorchester Hotel in London as the only Chinese restaurant in Europe worthy of a Michelin star.

Fung Ching Chen, the chei, who moved to Paris from Shanghai in 1972, won acclaim for his excellent Peking Duck. which actually hails from Brittany. It is served as three separate dishes — the crispy skin in a crepe with chives, the meat and as a broth. His delicately flavoured Boules de Neige parfumées à la Noix de Coco also

met with the judges' approval. "I have been cooking for 30 years and this is the greatest event in my life," said M Chen on hearing the news. His establishment is the

first Chinese restaurant in ten years that has proved capable of pleasing the exacting tastebuds of the Michelin Inspectors. Another Left Bank restaurant, Le Tandinh, held the honour for three years, before its star was removed in 1989.

Despite the growing popu-

larity of exotic food in France, the country boasts only one other ethnic restaurant considered worthy of a Michelin star: Tingad, a North African restaurant in the 17th arrondissement which specialises in couscous and tajines.

Another surprise came yesterday as a third star was awarded to unpretentious chef, Michel Bras, whose authentic cuisine used herbs and mountain plants long before became fashionable.

that his restaurant at Laguiole, deep in the rural heart of the Aveyron, would never achieve the ultimate gastronomic accolade, not only because it closes each year from October to April, but because the waiters are attired in simple cowherds ' smocks and M Bras insists that his customers use the same knife for each

Yesterday, M Bras, 52, who was awarded his first star in

years later, attributed his success to his mother and the rugged Aubrae countryside where "My mother and Aubrac gave me a sense of what is

beautiful and good, they taught me to do wonderful things with very little," he said. "My dishes tell a story ... I want them to bear witness to the countryside, the rocks, the skies and the light which make up my life here."

of cash flight by industry erhard Schröder, the German Chan-Lafontaine's tax plan may drive

cellor, is facing a revolt by big-name companies which are threatening to transfer investment abroad unless Bonn overhauls its tax reform plans. The latest challenge came

from RWE, the German energy and industrial group. which said the heavier tax burden - proposed by Oskar Lafontaine, the Finance Minister, and due to be approved this week -- would make the company think twice about investing in a brown-coal mining project

'It is a question of at least 14,000 jobs," said Dieter Schweer, a spokesman. "If the investment position is no longer attractive, we will examine every possibility of switching our investments abroad." Since RWE is a powerful industrial player, with interests well beyond the energy sector, the threat is being taken seriously.
It comes on top of a broadside from Allianz, the coun-

try's largest insurance company. The tax reforms penalising insurance companies would have a devastating effect on its profits. Since the company has extensive foreign interests - 60,000 out of its 100,000 employees work outside Germany - its headquarters could be shifted abroad to London or Zurich. London was clearly in the mind of Henning Schulte-Noelle, the chief executive, when he suggested in an interview that the business could operate "just as well in another country of

If Allianz left Germany so, it can be assumed, would its German competitors. And the disgruntlement of the two businesses reflects broader unhappiness throughout German industry. Corporation tax in Germany is at 45 per cent, though this can be reduced with clever bookkeeping. In Britain it stands at 30 per cent.

RWE's complaint is that the plan would force utility companies to pay taxes on capital reserves. Dietmar Kuhnt, RWE's chief execu-

investment to Britain, writes Roger Boyes

tive, said - in trying to sway parliamentarians to vote against the tax reform - that the changes would impose about £9 billion of extra taxation on utility companies.

The discontent has been picked up. The mass circulation Bild newspaper yesterday described Herr Lafontaine as a bogeyman - taking a leaf out of The Sun's book — and accused him of driving capital away while at the same time making common cause with the ex-communists of the Party of Democratic Socialism (PDS).

The economy is beginning to look anaemic. Recent figures show gross domestic product fell slightly in the last quarter of 1998. A similar trend for the first three months of this year would put Germany in recession.

I he number of unemployed has risen by 560,000 since Herr Schröder made his inaugural speech in November. In the speech, he pledged to slash unemployment Relatively high pay settlements, agreed in February, by metal workers and by public-sector workers have fuelled the anxicty of industry. The fundamental concern, the European Union".

however, is that Germany is slipping too quickly to the left. Industry's fear of the Greens has dulled somewhat as Herr Schröder seeks to slow down the withdrawal from nuclear energy. But it is plain that the Government could become dependent on the support of the PDS. On a regional level, the Social Democrats are already co-operating with the PDS and this may, as a result of elections in east German states this year, increase. Business is thus reaching

for the emergency brake.

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The Samaritans We'll go through it with you. Beijing accuses Pentagon of pushing arms sales, writes

James Pringle

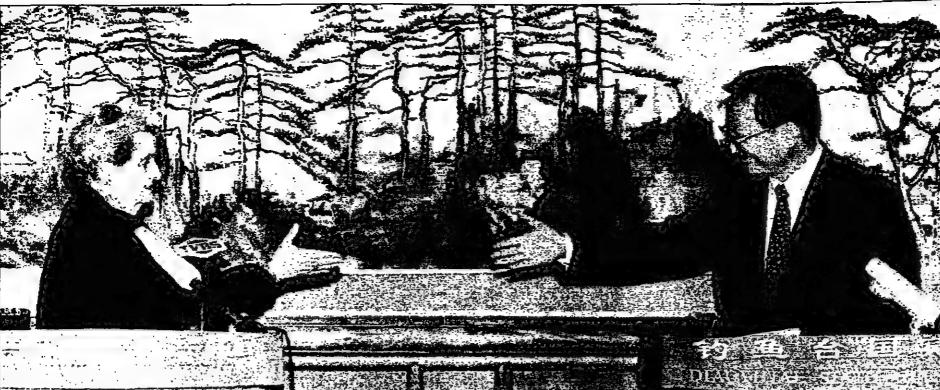
ON THE second day of a strained visit to China by Madeleine Albright, the US Secretary of State, Beijing launched a furious attack on America over Pentagon reports that the Chinese were building a major missile force with the intention of intimidating Taiwan.

Zhu Bangzao, for the For-eign Ministry, said yesterday that the Pentagon report on the military situation in the Taiwan Strait was a "serious interference in China's inter-nal affairs". The official Xinhua news agency quoted him as saying: "China expressed its serious dissatisfaction and resolute opposition."

Xinhua added that the report was part of an American plan to step up sales to Taiwan of advanced weapons such as ballistic and cruise missiles.

The Pentagon assessment sent to Congress last week and released on Friday - did not imply that Beijing was planning to carry out an attack against Taiwan and noted that the situation in the Taiwan Strait was calm. However, it did emphasise that Beijing, which considers Taiwan a renegade province, has refused to renounce the use of force against the offshore island.

Analysis believe that, in the event of a military confrontation breaking out. Beijing could overwhelm Tarwan's



Madeleine Albright, the US Secretary of State, and Tang Jiaxuan, the Chinese Foreign Minister, at the conclusion of their joint press conference in Beijing yesterday

current missile defences and superior air force by 2005, thanks to the sheer weight of

numbers of its weapons.

American law allows sales of defensive arms to Taiwan despite both Washington's transfer of diplomatic ties to Beijing in 1979 and China's opposition to any arms sales to the island. Washington has angered Beijing by selling Flo warplanes. Patriot missiles and other advanced weapons

In an illustration of the blunt nature of the current Sino-American dialogue, Ms

Albright said at a joint press conference with her Chinese opposite number that Washington deplored Beijing's crackdown on pro-democracy activists, while Tan Jiaxuan, the Chinese Foreign Minister, accused the US of "wantonly interfering in other countries'

Mr Tang added: "A handful of anti-China elements within the United States is going all out to interfere with and obstruct the normal development of China-US relations.

"We have always been opposed to politicising the

human rights question and to wantonly interfering in others countries' affairs by using human rights questions as an excuse," he added.

But Ms Albright, who yester-day also met Zhu Rongji, the Prime Minister, said that human rights were a "question of grave concern".

In a reference to the crackdown on dissent that began late last year, and continued this past weekend with the detention or jailing of several dissidents, Ms Albright added: "We have deplored the actions that have taken place recently

with the Foreign Minister." Last Friday the US State Department released an annual report saying that human rights deteriorated sharply in China last year. Quarrels over human rights, satellite sales and defence policy show that the goodwill from summit meetings in the past two years between President Clinton and his Chinese opposite number, Jiang Zemin, did not lead to a unified point of view.

But Ms Albright and Mr

Tang also said that, in the long

term, relations had improved

and I will raise those issues

Meanwhile, an activist in southern · China yesterday launched a second opposition party, the China Rights Party, which aimed to promote civil rights. The earlier China Democracy Party, launched last

and they were committed to

narrowing the differences be-tween their countries. China

yesterday issued a critique of

human rights in America.

emphasising its rampant gun violence, overcrowded pris-ons, racial discrimination and

year, has been under severe attack from Chinese security

agencies, with several leaders being given long jail terms.

Out in open: China has jettisoned all Beijing's foreigner-restricted areas — set up in 1958 to protect "state secrets". Foreigners found in the areas, marked by 118 checkpoints and usually containing military barracks or accommodation for top-level officials. would be removed. Some were deported.Most areas were opened in 1985, since when all but two of the last restrictions had gone. Last year about 2.13 million foreigners visited the

the south and got all the glo-ry," said retired Major-Gener-

then a colonel and now a close

friend tipped to be Defence

Minister. General Obasanjo,

61, has been President before,

when he took over after a mili-

tary leader, Murtala Mohammed, was assassinated in 1975.

Four years later he became the

only military dictator to

hand power back volun-

tarily to civilians. Gener-

al Abdulsalami Abu-

bakar will hand the presi-

dency to General Obas-

anjo at the end of May.

The latter's relative pov-

erty, and role as a Com-

Theodopholus Danjuma

'Stolen' children sue the state for damages FROM DAVID WATTS

LORNA CUBILLO wept uncontrollably as she relived the horror of the day in 1947 when she was wrenched from her family. She is middle aged now but has never forgotten the day. she was put on a lorry with 16 other children aged from seven months to li years and taken from her parents. Ms Cubillo is one of

the "stolen generation". She told her story yesterday in Darwin at the opening of a legal case against the Federal Government seeking compensation for the suffering visited on Abo-riginal children under the White Australia Policy.

As the lorry pulled away a baby was dumped in Lor-na Cubillo's arms and she. a seven-year-old, was told she would be responsible for it At first, she thought she was going on a picnic. but the screaming of the grief-stricken Aboriginal mothers, racing after the lorry, alerted her that this was no picnic. It turned out to be a two-day drive through outback Northern Territory to Darwin and nine years in an institution.

Her story, and that of thousands of other Aborigines forcefully assimilated as part of the White Australia Policy, is something the country is struggling to come to terms with.

When Peter Gunner was grabbed he believed he was going to be killed. "I didn't see the welfare blokes and they grabbed me and held me by the arms and dragged me to the truck. I went mad screaming to my family to help me, but they didn't move. They couldn't

do nothing about it."

He is a joint party with Ms Cubillo in the first civil action of its kind being brought against the Government by the stolen generation. They are seeking both compensatory and punitive damages for wrongful innprisonment and breach of a vast range of duties. A previous case, brought by other plaintiffs in 1997 on constitutional grounds, failed.

But if this action is successful it will have implications not only for 700 others seeking similar redress but also the 30,000 or so British orphans who were sent to Australia, beginning in the inter-war period. It will leave Australia with little choice but to confront the question of compensation.

Military maverick declared Nigeria poll victor

Obasanio: has vowed to stamp out corruption

THE former Nigerian mili-tary leader General Olusegun General must show he is not army Obasanjo was returned to powstooge, writes Sam Kiley in Lagos

er as an elected civilian President vesterday by a huge margin, amid accusations of vote supporters in the People's rigging and cheating from his Democratic Party. Mr Falae's rival and international moni-All People's Party was equally tors. Olu Falae, the loser. at fault, according to the Nigecalled the elections a farce. rian Transition Monitoring Jimmy Carter, former US Group, which deployed 10,700 President and leader of an obobservers across the country. server team, agreed that there General Obasanjo pledged to continue the process of dewere widespread irregularities. But cheating was not conmocracy and said that he did fined to General Obasanjo's not believe that any elections

could be perfect after his 63 per cent win was formally announced. Nigerians will now be looking to the general to make good his campaign pledge to stamp out corruption and show that he is no stooge of the armed forces, anxious to keep a handle on power.

To many members of his own Yoruba tribe of the south-

ing more than a stalking horse for a northerner-dominated military unwilling to leave Nigeria's political stage open to civilians. To his supporters in the north, he will be a trustworthy custodian of their interests. He has allowed them to let go control of the presidency and favour a power shift to the south without risking a

national fragmentation. However, the general has a habit of confounding both his critics and his fans.

Born to humble farmers in 1937, General Obasanjo finished his highschool education, but was too poor to take up a university place. Like many growing up in the transition from British colonial rule to independence in October 1960, he saw a future for himself in the army, which provided an education at the Mons Officers' Cadet School in England, and engineer training in Shrivenham, Oxfordshire. Service with the

United Nations in Copgo was followed by the Biafran War

It was in Biafra where he carned national recognition in a daring, maverick manocuvre. Ignoring orders from Lagos and the operational plans of a rival divisional commander to the north of secessionist Biafra, the then Colo-

RESULTS

nel Obasanjo launched a surprise attack on the breakaway region, forced a surrender and emerged a national hero much to the irritation of Nigeria's generals and other divi-

sional commanders. "It was a shock and embarrassment that, while we were waiting for our own D-Day which had been planned for

Official voting figures: Ohasanio: 18,738,000 (62.8%) 11,110,000 (37.2%) monwealth emissary to apart-

heid South Africa have ensured him international and domestic credibility. One cannot help feeling that he's probably the only person around who might be able to do the job," said karl

Maeir, an observer at the elections and West Africa analyst.

King of the re

Los A cance

broughout in mortgage term. (In practice, the descript of \$1.5%, much on 20th April 2001 and we change our fall sensible bette role from then on, this is currently 6.59%). Northly mortgage payment \$17.00 after tex reled.

200 mortgly payments. Hondby PEP pressure \$25.75. Total amount payable \$114.07.2 Calls may be non-boyed and recorded. But past to aged 18 or over and gove us a reoringer over your property. We may seed addressed surrivers and recorded. But pasts to aged 18 or over and gove us a reoringer over your property. We may seed addressed surrivers and recorded. But pasts to aged 18 or over and gove us a reoringer over your property in may seed addressed surrivers. These said the product you closest end affect the meant of such contributions because towards exhaust to be surrivers be under your products and office are not your products. The product or offer so only available to customers recordinging and all forms beyond. Our products and office are

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HALIFAX

Police had to rescue Anwar in cell attack BY DAVID WATTS

ANWAR IBRAHIM was lucky to escape with his life when he was assaulted while handcuffed and blindfolded by the then Malaysian chief of police last year. The commission of inquiry into the beating has already heard medical testimony that his injuries were potentially fatal.

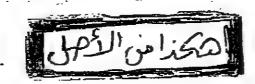
Yesterday Yaacob Muhammad Amin, the director of the Criminal Investigation Department, testified that be and his deputy had to pull Rahim Noor, the police chief, off the former Deputy Prime Minister to stop the assault.

Mr Yaacob said that he was outside the cell when he heard a voice in Malay saying: "Don't hit me". He and his deputy, Ramli Yusof, rushed inside. Then I Rahim [Noor]. I grabbed his belt and pulled him with my right hand towards me, with my left hand holding the bar of the cell . . . Ramli was pushing Rahim away and I pushed Rahim out of the cell. We had to get Rahim out of

All this happened on a day when the police chief later assured the foreign press that Mr Anwar was "safe and

Halim Mansar, a forensic science expert at Kuala Lumpur General Hospital, examined Mr Anwar four days after the assault and he testified that there were multiple injuries that were "very dangerous for the victim. The extent of the injuries was very





children sue the state for damages

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Ordersalt masses

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total disease). HERMAN KING Same, Pittern 技術的な事 ないおしょう SHOW SETTING 類別場で対けない。

'Stolen'

cancer capital CANCER-CAUSING chemicals in car exhaust fumes have left residents of Los Angeles hundreds of times more at risk of fatal disease than the federal Clean Air Act allows, according to a government study that is likely to send shock-waves through the healthcare and automotive industries.

The congressional study of air quality in America's second-largest city, published yesterday, reveals airborne carcinogens at levels 426 times higher than those established as safe nine years ago.

The alarming figures "should give a jolt" to the city, a spokeswoman for the Natural Resources Defence Council in Washington, said. "We know our air is dirty, but now we know in black and white that it's toxic too," he added. Los Angeles smog, which for decades has driven film stars to the coast for the relief

brought by onshore breezes. has already prompted the nation's toughest car emissions standards.

But yesterday's report showed that little has been done to curb invisible compounds in vehicle exhaust that target in-ternal organs and may be behind the region's stubbornly high cancer levels.

Car fumes make

Los Angeles the

Butadiene, benzene and formaldehyde cause tumours in human lungs, breasts, ova-ries, livers, thyroid glands, testes and other organs, tests

All three are present at unusually high levels in the air over the Los Angeles basin, where clinics such as the John Wayne Cancer Wing at the Cedars Sinai Medical Centre have treated a steady stream of famous — and merely rich - cancer victims, including Larry Hagman, Michael Landon and Gilda Radner.



Ford's outsize four-wheel-drive vehicle, the Excursion

King of the road is here

IT IS the size and weight of a respectable log cabin, but so much more versatile (Giles Whittell writes). With room for the entire extended family and three average cars' worth of laggage, the Ford Excur-sion will be the largest mass-

produced four-wheel-drive when launched later this year. Welcome to the age of the behemoth, when the oil crisis of 1973 is but a hazy memory.

Unveiled last week at Ford's Michigan beadquarters, the Excursion is expected to prove once and for all that size does matter in the heartland. Longer and wider than its biggest rival, the Chevrolet Subur-ban, the \$50,000 (£35,000) Excursion is nearly 19feet long and weighs 3.5 tonnes when empty. The sporty version will offer a stately ten miles per gal-

ion on city streets.

FROM GILES WHITTELL IN LOS ANGELES "It appears that motor vehicles create the largest portion of the toxic risk in terms of their emissions," Barry Wallerstein of the local Air Quality Management District said. The Clean Air Act set a target of exposing only one Ameri-can in a million to the risk of cancer through bad air quali-

ty. In Los Angeles that index is now at 470 per million, the study found, while in neigh-bouring Burbank, where much of the film industry is based, 483 per million are at

Smoking is still more dangerous than breathing the air in Los Angeles — 250 times more dangerous for an adult with a one-pack-per-day habit, according to the report. Nonetheless, American envi-

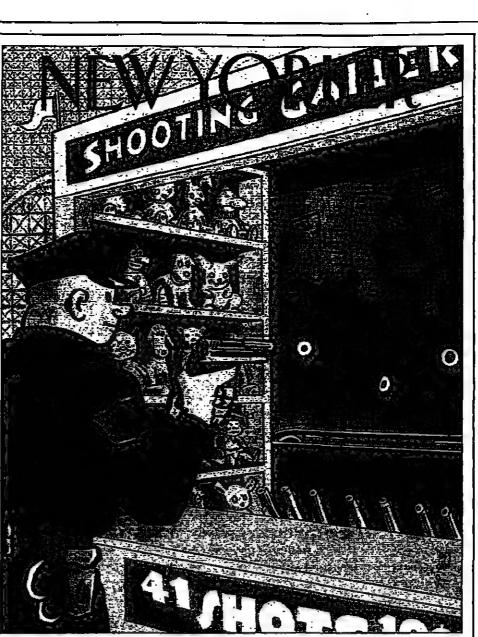
ronmentalists hope that it may not be long before, in a hitherto unthinkable development, petrol-burning cars are required to carry public health warnings: I Britain has standards for

two of the chemicals identified in the California study - ben-zene and butadiene (Nigel Hawkes writes). Both are exceeded in urban streets, but improvements now being made should mean that the standards are met by 2005. But Roger Higman, of

Friends of the Earth, said that there may even then be hotspots in the centres of cities, and around petrol stations, where levels continued to exceed the limits. Both of these chemicals are present in fuel and reach the air as it is pumped into cars.

Last year the European Commission proposed a tougher limit on benzene. To meet it, emissions will have to fall by 70 per cent more than already planned, Similar limits on other carcinogens, including butadiene, are expected to follow.

The Californian figures sound alarming, and at face value they represent an extra 470 cases of cancer per million people. But as 250,000 people in every million can expect to contract cancer, this represents about 2 per cent.



The latest New Yorker showing a policeman shooting civilian silhouettes at a fair

New Jersey police chief is sacked for racial 'slur'

From James Bone in New York

ONE of America's top policemen has been fired for suggesting that drugs crimes are associated with particular ethnic groups, and accusing Jamaicans of running his state's heroin trade.

Colonel Carl Williams, the superintendent of New Jersey's state police, had been at the centre of a controversy over allegations of "racial profiling" in apprehending drivers since white officers fired Il times at four unarmed nonwhite youths whose car was pulled over on the way to a basketball game in April.

In an interview with a local newspaper, Colonel Williams condemned "racial profiling"

and denied it was practised by his force. But he insisted it was naive to believe that race was not an issue in drug trafficking and other crimes.

"Two weeks ago the President of the United States went to Mexico to talk to the President of Mexico about drugs," he said. "He didn't go to Ireland. He didn't go to England . . .

"If you are looking at the methamphetamine market. that seems to be controlled by the motorcyle gangs, which are basically white." he add-ed. "If you are looking at heroin and stuff like that, your involvement there is more or less Jamaican."

Black politicians, churchmen and civil rights activists expressed outrage, and Christine Todd Whitman, the Governor, dismissed Colonel Williams.

Controversy over police racism is also raging in New York, where four white members of a "street crimes" unit shot dead a Guinean immigrant armed only with a beeper, firing a total of 41 times.

The police union protested yesterday against a "grossly offensive" cartoon on the cover of the latest New Yorker. showing police at a fairground shooting gallery with a sign reading: "41 shots, 10

Senators seek to avert risk of Armageddon

TWO American senators want experts from the nuclear powers to get together next New Year's Eve to eliminate any chance of a year 2000 (Y2K) computer problem triggering a false missile alert.

The experts would assemble at a temporary centre in Colorado Springs, where Ameri-ca's missile-tracking headquarters - the North American Aerospace Defence Command is buried deep inside Cheyenne Mountain.

Russia has already agreed to a proposal by Washington to set up a temporary joint early warning system to avoid any risk of the Y2K millennium bug causing a nuclear Armageddon. But the senators are recommending that America should try to bring the other nuclear powers, including China, India and Pakistan, 10 Colorado Springs.

The pair, Robert Bennett, a Republican, and Christopher Dodd, a Democrat, are leading a Senate committee on the YZK problem.

Mr Dodd said the experts should be in the same room for the critical period when older computer systems - using only the last two digits of a year - could malfunction by misreading the year 2000 as 1900. "If something does break down, we've got people there who can monitor it and make quick decisions," he said.

The missile watchers at Cheyenne Mountain do not believe in principle that there is any danger of an inadvertent nuclear launch caused by the Y2K bug. Missiles are not, af-ter all, fired by computers, but by human commands. They do see a risk, however, of confusion in the event of one country suffering a blackout or breakdown in the power supply to its nuclear systems that could leave other countries

'blind" to its intentions. The experts would sit at a round table and be in touch with their head offices by telephone. They would be able to give reassurances if any of them showed signs of having a problem.

The proposed name for the Armageddon watch room is the Centre for the Year 2000 Strategic Stability, Edward Warner, the Under-Secretary of Defence, will go to Moscow with a Pentagon working

Ian Brodie in Washington reports on a

millennium bug group this month to meet their Russian counterparts and make plans for the centre, it will be operational from the be-

plan to beat the

ginning of December this year until the middle of January 2000. A continuous stream of information will be made available to the Russians via American

satellites and ground sensors. Last year, Presidents Clinton and Yeltsin agreed to pursue development of a permanent joint early warning centre in Russia to continuously share data on missile laun-

ches. But it will not be ready by the end of the year. Pentagon officials said the Russians knew about the bug and its potential for disruption, but had not yet dedicated enough money or people to

A report from the two senators says an accidental nuclear launch is unlikely. But Mr Bennett said: "When we get to New Year's Eve, everybody, no matter how informed we think we are, is going to be holding his breath."

The senators also gave a warning of non-nuclear millennium problems in America, including potential power cuts and problems in doctors' surgeries and hospitals, where Y2K preparations are lagging

They stopped short of issuing a Doomsday warning, but said Americans would be well advised to stock up on two or three days' supplies of food, much as they would for a blizzard.



http://www.bomeeffles.gov.bk/ yr2000/index.biss — Home Office ste with information about the response of public sector bodies to the bug. http://www.bug2000.co.pk/ s.te of the Action 2000 Agency. http://www.microsoft.com/bechnet/ year2ft/ — The Microsoft Year 2000 cerare, with information about how Micro-soft products are affected by the bug.

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BARCLAYS

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'Female Viagra' revellers suffer seizures

New York: Revellers at a wild birthday party on Manhattan's Upper West Side started dropping to the floor and two women were rushed to hospital with breathing difficulties after guests took a herbal remedy dubbed the "female Viagra" (James Bone writes).

Partygoers were drinking beer with chasers of "invigorate" - touted as a miracle drug that can put users in a good mood, help them to lose weight, build muscle and improve their sex lives. The lemon-flavoured drug contains a compound known as gamma-butyro-lactone, or GBL — also used in "date-rape" by men who slip it into women's drinks.

The dietary supplement was pulled from chemists' shelves in January when the US Food and Drug Administration reported that 55 people had suffered adverse

You don't have to be French to shop in Calais.

reactions to substances containing GBL including one woman who died. It can still be purchased on the Internet, where it is described as the "Fountain of Youth".

As many as a dozen people at Satur-day's party fell ill, having downed shots of the potion, which is meant to be taken by the teaspoonful. The party was out of conrrol," said one host, "People were dropping to the floor and having seizures."





Attention all shoppers, especially in areas a short hop from Dover.

Here is the shopping forecast from the English Channel.

Dover to Calais - crossings, frequent.

Shopping prices falling steadily.

Wines plentiful from all regions with bargains, imminent. Bries moderate. Other cheeses also

excellent. Hotel accommodation - good.

Restaurants - fine.

There'll be a few passengers unwinding as the day goes on and we'll see more ferries along shortly.

What are you waiting for: With around 140 crossings a day.



DOVER/CALAIS. OVER 100 CROSSINGS EVERYDAY. P&O STENA LINE, SEAFRANCE & HOVERSPEED.

Pushing the

body beyond normal limits

AVID runners need have no

worries about their cardiovas-

cular system. Provided it was

normal when they start the

London Marathon, the heart

will still be beating bravely at

There is no evidence that strenuous physical exercise in

temperate climatic conditions

does any long-term damage to

the heart, and runners are therefore unlikely to expire en

route. There are occasional deaths among athletes, but this is usually the result of a

dangerous arrhythmia; the re-

Although minor arrhyth-mias are common during

heavy exercise, they don't usu-

ally cause disasters and when

they do, it is usually because

the runners were unaware

that their coronary arteries were in poor fettle, either be-

cause they had some congeni-tal disease of the arteries or the

aortic valve, or more frequent-

ly that their coronary arteries

were already plagued with atheroma. This is the fatty ma-

terial that furs up arteries -

sudden exercise sometimes causes one of the plaques ad-herent to the artery wall to rup-ture, with the result that de-

bris may block a vital artery.

Occasionally, calamity follows

an undetected cardiomyopa-

thy, an overgrowth of heart

muscle and enlargement of the

heart to the point where it no

None of the marathon run-

ners should be taking part if

they have a temperature, or even if they think they are sick-

ening for a dose of flu or other

infection. The heart is rouch

more vulnerable to transitory

infection than is sometimes re-

alised; and it is thought that

some of the unexpected sud-

den deaths in young athletes

each year are because, despite

having a temperature, they

have ventured out on to the

pitch rather than sitting by a

Detecting heart disease in an athlete isn't always easy. Some endurance athletes who,

day by day build up their phys-ical prowess, develop the ath-

letic heart syndrome. The

heart becomes enlarged, the heart rate becomes very slow,

and they develop various changes in their ECG pattern

that strike terror into the non-

specialist doctor, particularly

as the patient may also have

murs. Although a harmless

syndrome, It is not a diagnosis

that can be made in five min-

utes at the end of a busy sur-

gery and its true nature should be confirmed by an

expert.

If athletes were chased by a

longer functions efficiently.

sult of undetected disease.

the finishing line.

The idle vow that cost £1m, payable in sweat

John Spurling is running the London Marathon against all advice, says Jon Ashworth

on the scale of John Spurling. a semi-retired businessman. Last year, over drinks in Langan's Brasserie, he agreed to compete in this year's Flora London Marathon despite never having run anywhere in his life. Worse, he pledged to raise El million for charity.

Overweight and out of condition. Spurling, 59, embarked on a training programme under which he will have run 1.500 miles by the time his ordeal is over. Even his trainer tried to talk him out of it. But Spurling is a man obsessed. and on marathon day. April 18. he intends to complete the 26 miles even if it takes all day. Spurling has spent much of

his life in Kenya, which is known for its longdistance runners. He has attracted I tried to pledges of ESS0.000 so far, which, if he touch my finishes the marathon, will easily outstrip the previous toes but I individual best of £444,000, raised in could only 1982 by Sir Roger Gibbs to fund a reach my new body scanner at Guy's Hospital. endeavours knees will benefit animals and children.

Lord's Taverners, whose chairman is a close friend. Preparing an out-of-shape man for such a punishing ordeal is no small challenge. Spurling runs at least ten miles a day, six days a week. using a treadmill in his Central London flat, and admits that it has been tough. 'The first time I tried to touch my toes. I could only get to my knees," he says. "I'd never

through the Ani-

done any exercise except golf." Five months into his training, he has run 800 miles, his blood pressure is down and he has lost weight. "I cut out all carbohydrates except for a bowl of cereal in the morning no bread, no rice, no pasta and I started losing weight fast. The body's fat turns into carbohydrates, so it starts to

cat the fat away." Weight loss or not, people think he is crazy. John Major, who has pledged money, told Spurling he had "lost his marbles". Sir Denis Thatcher, on hearing of his quest at a Lord's Taverners event, shouted:

"When's the memorial service?" His trainer, Lee Saxby, a former RAF engineer, is aimost as unforgiving. "A marathon is an unnatural event." he says. "The first guy who did it in Ancient Greece got to the end and died. It ages you and it's hell for your joints."

Spurling received a letter from an orthopaedic surgeon pledging to pay him £1,000 not to run. He told Spurling: "I've had enough of silly old sods doing exercise they shouldn't be doing." More than 40,000 runners sign up for the London Marathon but only 30,000 run on the day. Injuries claim the rest.

Saxby says: "Compared with sprinters, marathon runners look terrible. They lose all their muscle and age very quickly. All that mileage and the oxygen going out of their damages

the cells and speeds up the ageng process." He admits to thinking twice before taking Spuriing on. "John had every risk factor in the book. He's male, and guys tend to drop dead of cardiovascular disease more than

females. He was had high blood sure and had been mul Health Trust and the inactive for most of his life. In theory, no, he shouldn't be do-

> Marathon runners about "hitting the wall" at a certain point in a race - usually around 20 miles, when the body's store of carbohydrates runs out and it starts to burn fat. Spurling jokes that he hits the wall after 300 yards. "Every day I ask myself, why I am doing this? They say your body releases a chemical that makes you look forward to training. That hasn't happened to me yet."

> Spurling has a host of celebrities egging him on, from Jeffrey Archer to Bobby Chariton. Michael Aspel and Geoff Hurst. Sebastian Coe is providing encouragement. Spuriing's aim is to work up to 20 miles on his treadmill, then tackle the 26 miles for the first time on the day. "I run a mile, then walk for a minute. That seems to be what my body is accepting," he says. "I'd be thrilled to do it in five hours." Although he makes light of

> it, people do drop dead in mar-

gently, quickly and effectively.

legs, body, male chest and back.

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CLINICS THROUGHOUT THE UK . ESTABLISHED 1983



John Spurling (left) limbers up in Hyde Park with his personal trainer, Lee Saxby. He trains on a treadmill at home

risk in punishing your body in this way. His wife, Gwyneth. says she panicked initially, but takes comfort from the fact that there have been only five marathon deaths in 18 years. Whatever happens, the chari-ties will get their money. Spurling has insured his life for El million - just in case.

• Anyone who wishes to support John Spurling can send donations to The Animal Health Trust/Lord's Taverners Marathon Challenge, 22 Queen Anne's Gate, London SWIH 9AA. Everyone who makes a pledge will receive a thank-you cerdificate signed by more than 40 celebrities. Cheques should be made payable to AHT/Taverners Marathon Run.

Harder they run, higher they fly Addictive side-effects and a sense of achievement or most of the British public, the Flora Lon-don Marathon is an

almost alien event. Sitting in living rooms, they watch with ed to the physiological sideperverted beschuation as the breed of forlors creatures effects of exercise," she says. puffs past. After six hours, a cial in motivating many of the unanimous conclusion is

age to keep on training."

er areas of their lives get a

voiced: runners are nutters. Although it is true that to run 26.2 miles requires deter-mination, psychologists sug-gest that it is not such an mpossible feat as most of the voyeurs might think. In fact, thanks to chemicals released by the brain when excessive exercise is taken, running

becomes an addiction. Alma Thomas, a sports psychologist and co-ordinator for UK Athletics, argues that almost anybody could run a sporting history.

There is nothing to say that you need to be a certain type of person to run, have a certain physique or have a tough mental state. Many people are dragged into it and may not be enthusiastic when they start training, but most find that they become addictmotivate the contestants, as Victoria Fletcher discovers

sense of reward from com-

pleting their training and improving their times. These side-effects are cru-"Many people never feel that they can do it. Then they less likely marathon runners to continue their gruelling train and realise that they can reach little targets. They are in control and build confi-dence until they begin to run training regimes. When intensive exercise is undertaken, a reaction occurs in the brain greater distances," she says. to quell the physical pain and mental torture. Research has However, when they stop, they often get a sense of deshown that these natural enpression because both the psy-chological and physiological dorphins have the same effect as drugs such as heroin. The athlete feels elated and his or rewards stop." her sense of pain is sup-

ceping the mind occupied and determined "The endorphins make runners feel 'high'." Thomas says. "Combine this with the is one of the hardest hattles for the marathon runfact that being fit makes peoner. Dr Sarah Rowell is a sports science consultant and ple feel good about them-selves and their bodies, and former British women's marathon record holder. Despite even the most lethargic manher talent and fitness, she ad-Control is also important for runners. Thomas believes that many people who feel they are not achieving in oth-

mits that there was not a single race where she did not consider dropping out. "The mental challenge is almost greater than the physiand be fit for the race, but how your mind works is what will make the difference. I would always want to stop and give up at the halfway mark, but then I would pull through that awful period

and go on to break records."

Rowell's research with

some of the country's top athletes has led her to believe that there are two types of marathon runner. Most amateurs cope with the pain and boredom by thinking of unrelated subjects, from their jobs to what they will cat for supper. Her research suggests that although this is more enjoyable, it can depress performance. Runners who become obsessive over heart rate and physical composure

"We have found that the people who think about the race, concentrate on their pace, their breathing, the next water-stop and their aches

hitherto unsuspected heart disease, they are more likely to suffer from other problems over the years. The runner should remember that he hasn't the hounds of hell chasing him, and that even if television cameras are present, and everybody from the office is cheering him on, it is essential

MEDICINE CHEST

pack of hounds down the Em-

bankment and were then bun-

dled away by human rights

protesters, their blood serum

analysed and their urine exam-

ined for traces of haemolysed blood, the results would be alarming. Every headline next day would be crying out for

such a cruel sport to be aban-

doned, and earnest doctors

would discuss whether, if it hadn't been for their skilful at-

tention, the runner would have died. Marathon running

certainly pushes the body be-yond the limits that it would

normally have to endure, and

there is transitory damage to the muscles and joints.

Although marathon run-ners are at risk of exposing

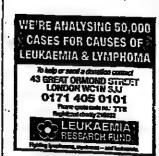
to stop if the pain is intolerable. Likewise, stop if chest pain or a very severe headache is noticed. Feeling dizzy, loss of concentration and orientation so that everything becomes a blur is an indication that it is time to melt into the crowds after visiting the first-aid tent.

In the unlikely event of a very hot day, heatstroke and heat exhaustion are risks for the unfit. Pounding the pavements results in excessive wear and tear of the spine and arthritis of the intervertebral joints - this is only partially prevented by having shock-absorbent soles on roomy trainers and doing as much running as possible on grass. ed and the arches of the athpainful and flat as those of the proverbial policeman. Toes are hammered against the end of the shoes when running; the mails when raised from their bed make an ideal cranny for

The overenthusiastic athlete may also pay an emotional price. Research a few years ago showed that marathon runners are more likely to divorce — psychiatrists regard excessive exercise as an interesting symptom.

times than those who switch

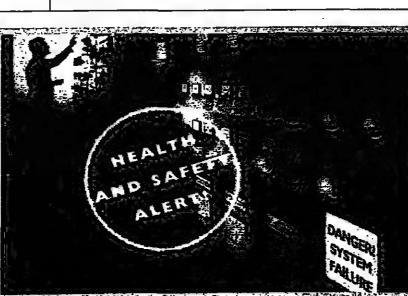
off," she says. For the runners who do manage to finish the 26-mile slog, an even more interesting psychological community awaits. Instead of relaxing, the obsessive interest in exercise can move to new extremes. "After one race, people often find that they are addicted physically and mentally." Rowell says. "They need a tougher challenge. That is when most decide to run in fancy-dress."



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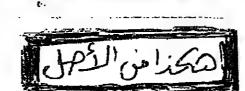
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Sceptic seeks New Age therapy f 4am is the low point of the day, when the living lie awake and anxious, and the dying relinquish their hold on life, then late wheels of the · Base . Som winter is the 4am of the year, when And now the second one's complexion goes as grey as the sky and one's immune system sags like n from Sudboiled knicker elastic led to the 21 1 1 1 A. 151. There were

The resolutions with which one began January in such confidence (gym three times a week; think serene thoughts instead of shouting at children; only one glass of wine with dinner) have faded, adding a sense of fail-ure to add to one's list of self-reproach about being an evil-tempered Slack Alice with a big burn. There are many short-term strategies for weathering this unlovely season: a week's skiing, a facial, a trip to the sales in search of cashmere comfort clothing. But every so often one reaches a point where

such palliatives don't work any more. This was my state early this year; frustration had been heaped upon disappointment in 1998. Things reached a climax just before Christmas in the form of a frightening health scare. I have devised ways of blunting the sharp tooth of adversity: a moan to a patient friend, a glass of red wine, a fat 19th-century novel or an hour's energetic bouncing on the back of a horse. But by New Year's Eve I felt that what was happening to me was well beyond the power of Château Tassin to alleviate. So after a lifetime's scepticism, with never so much as a whilf of an aromatherapist's essence, I found myself setting off on a journey into the unknown realm of complementary therapy.

i began at Lifestyle Management, in Wimpole Street, Central London. In its press release the consultancy, run by



Jane Shilling had never had so much as a whiff of an aromatherapist's essence when a disastrous year finally made her cast aside her natural scepticism and go in search of natural remedies

المكذا فن الأجل

urges: "Take stock, throw off old bag-gage, revitalise your life. Geri did it, Cher did it, Madonna did it. Now you

Needham was reassuringly matterof-fact about how she might help to improve my life. She spent a year studying in India after leaving teaching, be-fore returning to London in the 1980s. designer boom and thinking that since people were so keen to have designer everything — cars, kitchens, clothes, babies — why not a designer lifestyle? Lifestyle Management offers ways of

identifying and achieving goals, junk-ing baggage and habits. Clients might include a successful thirtysomething woman whose career had flourished at the expense of her emotional life, or a middle-aged man who could not decide whether to leave his wife and begin afresh with his mistress. Needham's role is to encourage peo-

ple to break free of their comfort zones" of habit, envisage what their life. might be and then devise the means by which they might arrive at the desired state. The process generally takes five to ten sessions, at about £80 a visit. So, asked Needham, what was my problem? Oh, usual working mother's

stuff, said I. Too much to do, no time to do it all, resulting in exhaustion, bad temper and the looks and manner of a press release the consultancy, run by flesh-eating zombie. Ten minutes' deft Jane Townsend and Alix Needham, questioning broke the problem down

into three parts: better organisation of my work, providing time for myself, and work on understanding why I find it so hard to stop doing chores (not for nothing is the Shilling family motto You're Not Here to Enjoy Yourself).

"Now you're going to go into a re-laxed state," said Needham, I was to shut my eyes while she counted to ten. I was to imagine that in my right hand I held my professional self, in my left, myself as a child: What would the child say to her parents about how she had grown up? Oh dear. The prospect of saying anything at all on that subect was too awful to contemplate, even in a state of alleged relaxation. No, really, I couldn't. Perhaps, said I, squirming, but trying not to be unhelpful. I could tell my child self that I was a grown-up now, so it didn't much mat-ter how I'd been brought up. Fine, said Needham. Now I was to join my hands symbolically together, she would count to ten again, and I could open my eyes. She then set me some "tasks"; for example, I was to ask my nanny for an evening's babysitting a week, then reorganise my work schedule to accommo-

I ask my nanny to babysit once a year, but emboldened by Alix's can-do approach. I mumbled something like,

if it wasn't too much trouble, might she consider it? Delighted, she replied.

Dazzled by my new, pleasure-filled lifestyle, I set off in good humour for my session of Rosen bodywork with Ulrike Tham. Tham trained as a nurse in Sweden, where her interest in complementary medicine grew from a sense that her patients were overmedicated. She then encountered Marion Rosen, a German Jewish refugee whose work with a former student of Jung convinced her of the link between mind and body, and led her to devise a system of gentle massage intended to put clients in touch, emotionally and physically, with their "core selves" - it is based on the premise that each of us has an "authentic" self with which we gradually lose touch through the adoption of the masks and stratagems imposed by social conditioning.

y session was in her flat, an airy basement filled with the smell of a delicious stew. Pinned to the walls are texts from Goethe. I loathe taking my clothes off in the daytime, so I got undressed and lay stiffly to attention on the massage table, clutching the sheet that Tham had given me.

Tham is a beautiful, middle-aged woman with china-blue eyes. Before starting to work on me, she stood for a then proceeded to identify the spinal curvature that my doctor had assured me was imperceptible, the paralysing shyness from which I had thought ten years of talking to strangers for a living might have cured, and another.

even less creditable quality.

"You're a little fighter, aren't you?"
she said kindly. Oh dear. Old crosspatch, my son would say. Well, yes, I do feel the need to fight for every inch of do feel the need to fight for every inch of ground, I admitted, as briskly as one can while lying semi-naked on a table. I was determined not to succumb to a weepy recital of my little joys and sorrows. "Reaction during treatment var-ies widely," Tham's leaflet had warned. Some want to talk, laugh or cry." Not me. Perhaps, said Tham as I dressed and prepared to leave, something will come out in your dreams, "Never have a dream I can remember." I said.

I went home, feeling relaxed and interested in what Tham had said, but no different. That night I had a vivid, disagreeable dream about making an exhausting journey, with lots of difficult connections. You didn't have to be Jung to work it out. The next night I had an even pastier dream, so awful that I never allow my conscious mind near it. And the next morning, in unex-pected and terminal fashion, that source of anguish put an end to itself. Spooky or what? said I to a friend, a scientific rationalist "Pooh!" she cried, explaining it away in terms of manipulation of the parasympathetic nervous system. Parasympathetic nervous system or what, if I were Tham, I'd be

 Lifestyle Management, E80 a session; 0171-935 1965. Ulrike Tham, from £37

glad they don't burn witches any more.



'Spin your throat chakra in a clockwise direction.' Eh?

n my exploration of complementary therapies, I had begun to address the sensations of panic and discontent that hover over the lives of many women. Emotionally there seemed a possibility of improvement. but physically? To work fulltime, run a house and raise a child single-handed, even with the help of an excellent namy and loyal, patient friends, is a strain that the human frame was not meant to bear for long. Modern mothers, it has been pointed um, lead the lives of Victorian skivvies, and it shows. Howevbuck up, the mirror tells its OWN SERTY.

In my case, the grey com-plexion and purple rings un-der the eyes had become so alarming that I was putting in half an hour's work with lipstick and concealer before the school run for lear the other muramies might nodes that Alexander was being deliv-end by Mortica Addams Moreover, I am permanently extrausted and have the evil temper of the nasty old worn-an I shall become if I don't watch out. None of this adds up to an illness; certainly nothing 10 bother the GP with. But I have an overpowering sense that I am running on corpry and that it can't go on for much longer. The Balance Clinic on the

Kings Road, Chelsea, is the place to go if one feels end-oftecherish. The detailing is a mixture of the smart vernacutar and the quasi-religious. A young woman in white linen pajamas presides over an altar-like reception desk on which burns a scented candle. Angelic music floats, barely audible, on the air, and on a low table scattered with magazines sits a bowl filled with litthe slips of card, printed with Beautiful Thoughts: "Be like the angels: share on Earth and live in God," read mine. Perched on Zest magazine was a book. The Voice of the Sherre, by Madame Blavatsky. Wendering what that preposterous figure was doing in this modesh gaiere, I opened

it at random. The mind is the great slaver of the real," it observed, sternly.

I had come to the clinic to see Ba Harvey, who, with a combination of kinesiology and reiki, might sort out what ailed me, and do something about it. Harvey, a hygienic figure with blonde hair and a tight white trouser suit, took me into a consulting room with a huge table and a shelf full of lotions. There was a detailed medical questionnaire (the broken collarbone I sustained after being knocked down by a cycle decades ago might be "linked to depresclothed but for my shoes, on

to the massage table. Kinesiology is a technique of testing muscle resistance, from which certain "deductions (complementary thera-pists recoil from the word "diagnosis" like vampires from garlic) may be made about imbalances in the system. and means - massage, nutritional supplements, acupressure etc - of rectifying them.

Harvey tested the resistance of my main joints, and revealed a liver imbalance, Then she put wheat grains at the base of my throat. More tests showed a wheat allergy, of which I had been unaware. Then large tomes were laid on my tummy, and a gentle grip of my wrist signalled which page to consult about a prob-lem or its solution. Part of me was awed by the marmuring intensity of it all: another imagining what I looked like with my feet and head sticking out at either end and the rest covered in books - was fighting a fit of giggles.

reiki healing, which is sometimes accompanied by intense visions or colours. (Mine were those of a comfortable doze.) Harvey per-crived an aura, which I was put out to have missed, though consoled by the luxury of having spent a weekday afternoon flat on my back doing absolutely nothing. The next appointment was



Reiki healing may be accompanied by intense visions or sensations of colours. Sometimes a person's aura is perceived

with Serena Smith, a hypnotherapist specialising in flower essences, who works from her flat in North London. The atmosphere combines the spiritual with the domestic family photographs, crystal eggs and miniature Mars bars, a powerful scent of incense and a hortatory Post-It - "I am successful and creative . . . -

on the word-processor screen. Smith is 60 and an adven for her own programme: she

has clear, firm skin and bright, brown eyes. Her manner is warm and sensible and I found myself nodding sagely as she explained how, over six sessions, the "unconscious mind is accessed and given instructions to heal at a cellular level". The process is underpinned with flower essences and a cassette of "positive af-firmation". The actual pro-cess was prosaic enough: sitting on Smith's cream leather

sofa, I shut my eyes and, to the accompaniment of ephem-eral music, I listened as she told me that I was becoming ever more relaxed. Then, reading from a script (whose pages crackled as they were turned), she issued an elaborate set of instructions, some of which were a bit advanced. "Spin your throat chakra in a

clockwise direction." Eh? Later I had to apostrophise various bits of me in encourag-

ing terms: "Say after me." said Smith, "my beloved pirui-tary gland ..." Oh dear. Oh, all right. The result, Smith said, would be that "the helixes in your cells are increasing". Then the tape stopped. I opened my eyes and was giv-en a cassette of affirmation ("I like myself. I approve of myself") and a bottle of Eternal Youth flower essence.

I listened to my tape, and dosed myself with Eternal

Youth. For all I know my helixes were multiplying nicely, but I still felt cross and tired when I went to see Elizabeth Gibaud at the Hale Clinic The Hale was opened in 1988 by the Prince of Wales at 7 Park Crescent, a cream-stuccoed building in a grand Nash terrace. Inside, the atmosphere is hospital-like, with leaflets on every complementary therapy imaginable. I was to have a facial analysis with Gibaud, whose specialities include weight loss and gain, cating disorders, mood swings, premitture ageing, alcohol addiction and cystitis. When young, she had suffered from respiratory and back problens, which she overcame by ing on to work as an actress in, among other things, the Carry On films, before becom-

ing a full-time therapist.
This slight, middle-aged woman with a power bob fixed me with a piercing stare and recled off defects: sinus problems (true), premature ageing (undeniable), a candi-da infection (not that I know of). I began to think it a mirade I could stagger about at all. She began on my diet, about which I tend to be smug: no processed food, lots of vegetables, olive oil. She was appalled: "You cat two full meals a day and do nothing to justify such consumption.

What about the daily twomile trek to school, the twiceweekly ride, the darting about that mothers do? She was unimpressed. A thorough medical inquest followed, which revealed the fact that I am soon to have an operation for something not very serious).

Then the verdict two weeks on a strict detox diet and would be bouncing with health. But I must stick to the diet (breakfast: porridge made with water, and as much cucumber as I fancied: lunch: ereen leaves, no oil; dinner: baked potato, lean grilled meat or non-oily fish; water). I was to take a detoxifying sup-plement, calcium, vitamin B, evening primrose oil and two homoeopathic remedies.

I had hardly opened the front door before the telephone rang. It was Gibaud. offering support. Her faith in her regimen is messianic, her follow-up assiduous. Over the next two weeks I was monitored and encouraged.

She has had encouraging results with serious disorders, including cancer. She believed my medical problem could be solved without recourse to surgery. Would I consider postponing the operation? I declined, wondering if it was safe to out myself under the knife after two or three weeks on such a low diet. Absolutely, said Gibaud. In a couple of weeks my immune system would be on top form.

he faxed me testimonials from clients who had benefited from with news of a young woman who had had cancer since 1988 and had shown, in nine weeks in her care, a real improvement. After two days on the diet my weight dropped to below 8st. I pressed on with the oatmeal and cucumber, but the walk to school had become an ordeal. And I didn't know what to do with my evenings now that I wasn't preparing and consuming dinner.

After a week I had a persistent headache. I had arranged to go riding but felt too limp to control a horse. This is absurd, said an internal voice. Gibaud had warned me about this and I knew what I should do: ring and let her deal with the voice. Instead I made a mug of sergeant-ma-jor's tea. stiff with sugar, and swallowed it with slices of toast and Marmite. Ten minutes later I pulled on my riding boots, with a confused sense of having let Gibaud down and a stronger pang of regret: I'll never know what might have happened had my will been stronger, and my tolerance for oatmeal and greenery just a bit higher.

■ The Balance Clinic: kinesiology from £65 per session, reiki from E55 (no charge for a halfhour preliminary consulta-tion), 0171-565 0333; Serena Smith Rejuvenation programme (six sessions over three months) £270, 0171-431 6153; Elizabeth Gibaud, The Hale Clinic, first appointment E70, then E50, 0171-631 0156.

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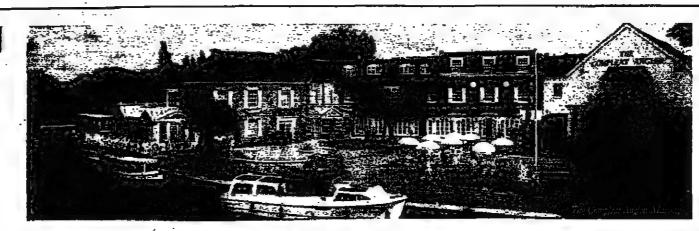
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Sights at the end of the tunnel

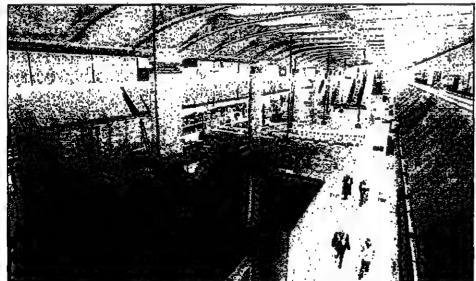
When it finally opens, the new Jubilee Line extension will be a showcase for Britain's finest architects, says Marcus Binney







Line stations. Each has been commissioned from a different architect by Roland Pacletti Waiting to be mounted on the wall, a chart at North Greenwich



Lobby of Foster's Canary Wharf station, which will handle 22,000 passengers an hour

he new Jubilee Line stations are likely to be the biggest architectural sensation of their kind since the underground palaces of the Moscow Metro were built to Stalin's lavish specification. But while Moscow is a glittering retro

'The score's almost

is beautifully mirrored

artha Clarke's staging'

in the feel and texture of

world of marble and chandeletti, the architect-in-chief for liers, London Underground's the Jubilee Line extension, who came to London fresh 11 new Jubilee stations -- leading like a necklace towards the Millennium Dome — are airy from building the impressive new Metro in Hong Kong. Paoand dramatically modern. letti's achievement is to bring Credit for this stupendous

and imaginative act of patronage goes largely to Roland Pao-

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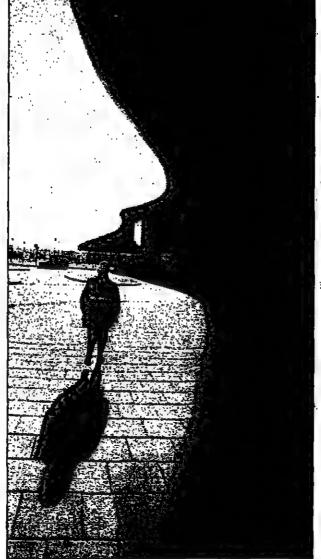
architects into an underground world that had hitherto been exclusively the domain of the civil engineer. The rumour has gone round that the new Jubilee stations are like cathedrals. Not sur-prisingly (given the £2.9 bil-lion cost of the extension) Paoletti is defensive here. But he fairly points out that the largest stations are cut-and-cover trenches and that filling in the

hole above the platform would have been at least as expensive as leaving it as a void.

Most deep stations on the Tube are a maze of tunnels where you lose all sense of direction. No longer. Paoletti's architects have achieved wonders in contriving generous. logically planned concourses below ground in areas which are usually cramped and con-fused by the vast quantity of unseen equipment that has to

be incorporated. He has sought out architects whose work contains a strong sense of engineering construction. This made Norman Foster an obvious choice, and also Michael Hopkins, who be-lieves intensely that a building's structure should always be on show land was awarded the prize commission for the

new Westminster station). Paoletti was making these choices in 1990, in the depths of the property recession, when architects were in des-perate straits. In these circumstances he considered it morally indefensible to ask one architect to take charge of the project and create a family of stations as Foster did at Bilbao (or Harry Weese in the Washington DC metro). He chose Will Alsop before he got his great commission in Mar-







Will Alsop's North Greenwich station (left); Chris Wilkinson's Stratford station with huge oversailing roof (above, right); and its forecourt (below, right)

seilles, and Chris Wilkinson when his only jobs were for low-cost housing. He has used high-tech acrobat Ian Ritchie for Bermondsey.

But it is apparent that Paoletti revers Richard MacCormac as the intellectual among his architects. At Southwark, Mac-Cormac has produced a station like an opera in three acts. The entrance to the sunken ro-tunda ticket hall is like a descent into a whirlpool, with four flights of concentric steps narrowing into two. MacCor-mac is a genius with sophisticated concrete finishes, subtly coloured and highly-polished, and here he introduces sparkling chips of quartz.

is masterstroke is a toplit concourse with East station. Elliptical and conical at the same time, the curving wall is clad in 600 triangular panes of glass that have the colour and pattern of blue pin-stripe fabric, designed with

the artist Alex Beleschenko. Then, on the opposite wall, three escalators plunge downwards. At the bottom the lower concourse hall, opening on to the platforms, is a shimmering stainless-steel tube, large enough for double-deckers.

At Canary Wharf, Norman Foster had a more straightforward task: setting the station in a trench along an old dock. This will be the second busiest station on the Tube (after Oxford Street) with a capacity of 22,000 passengers per hour. sions of the transparent "head scart" canopies that Foster uses in Bilbao. The main one, under Canary Wharf tower, is wide enough to house five par-allel escalators and allows sunlight to flood into the 285 metre concourse below. The great leature here is the wave concrete roof, supported by just seven widely spaced columns and cast in situ. The result is a structure robust enough to last centuries with nothing more

These architects achieve wonders in contriving generous and logically planned concourses?

While Foster's architecture is all simplicity and clarity, Will Alsop, in glorious con-trast, makes the design and display of every piece of equip-ment at North Greenwich into an event, whether they are ex-tractor ducts, canopies or service stairs connecting to machinery rooms suspended in space. "It's an architecture of parts," Alsop says. "I am fascinated with the idea of looking up through space and not know-

ing quite where it ends."

To achieve the maximum platform area, he places his

columns in pairs slanting in opposite directions to carry the roof. Deep blues dominate, blue mosaics on the columns and a wall of back-lit glass that is the exact tint of the traditional blue light outside a police station. Here, as at all the new stations, glass screens along the platform prevent passengers falling on the track, with sliding doors that open in sure with the trains.

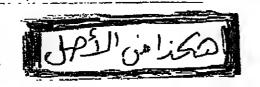
open in sync with the train's.

After the Jubilee Line has crossed beneath the Tharnes for the fourth time, it emerges at ground level at Stratford, a big interchange with the Cen-tral Line, the North London Line and trains to East Anglia For this, Chris Wilkinson has designed an engineering tour de force using steel as expres-sively as Gustave Eiffel. The huge oversailing roof is sup-ported on sickle-shaped steel beams that shoot out to form a canopy on the other side.

Wilkinson has made his name with what he calls supersheds, and appropriately he has designed the vast service

depot for Jubilee trains at Stratford Inside, five elevated lines allow engineers to walk under trains to inspect the un-dercarriages, while special jacks enable neighbouring trains to be lifted up bodily four carriages at a time, with three further tracks for cleaning rolling stock.

epeated delays to the Jubilee Line extension have created a, climate of cynicism. but smart new trains in red, white and blue are already making practice runs beneath: the Dome. The official line. now is that trains will start. running between Stratford and North Greenwich in the late spring, continuing all the way to Waterloo in the late summer, with the final link to. Westminster and Green Park opening in the autumn. When and if that happens, a one-day, Travelcard will buy not only as. last route across the capital but a tour of some spectacular



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THE TIMES TUESDAY MARCH 2 1999

Cage stumbles into snuff and nonsense

The real outrage of the puerile thriller 8mm is that anyone other than adults should be able to see it, writes Giles Whittell

t must have been a depress-ing weekend for Nicolas Cage and Joel Schumacher. First they will have read, or at least heard about, the reviews for L which Schumacher directed and Cage starred in. Reviews like: "A movie that will baffle and disgust you in one disconcerting experience (The Washington Post). And: There are some films whose existence makes the world a worse place to live, and this is one of them" (Los Angeles Times). Then, with any luck, they will have begun to realise that on this occasion the critics have a point

This is a dull, prurient and perni-cious film. Stylish trailers for 8mm had been running for months before its American release on Friday, and thriller junkies had every rea-son to look forward to it. The title had echoes of guns and syringes as well as the narrow-gauge film to which it actually refers, and the slack-faced Cage has earned a reputation for delivering solid action sat-isfaction as well as quirky comedy. One thinks of Raising Arizona, but also, secretly, of Con Air and The Rock.) In the event, Cage looks as if he's on Valium throughout, and the film, besides being oddly plotless for a thriller, reeks of the ar-

rogance of studios and stars. Cage plays Tom Wells, a welldressed, well-spoken private cyc summoned to a spooky Pennsylvania mansion by the widow of a recently deceased tyroon. She is worried to have found in her late husband's safe an old roll of celluloid on which a terrified teenage girl appears to be killed by a man in a black leather mask, with a machete and gallons of blood. Wells's mission is to find out if the killing really is for real, and it does not reveal. too much to say it really is.

He is on the trail of the makers of a snuff movie, a uniquely gruesome pornographic sub-genre that plenty of hoodiums in the film, not to mention in real life, believe exists only in urban legend. Wells learns the

with his mind and his marriage and gets him into mortal danger in a Los Angeles underworld that Schumacher has spiced, in a rare flash of imagination, with a Marra-

Even the best line in 8mm is not particularly good. As Wells, in re-search mode, buys up \$70-worth of hardcore porn in a Hollywood adult entertainment dungeon, the checkout clerk cheerfully asks: "Sir, could I interest you in a battery-operated vagina?" The clerk is played.



by Joaquin Phoenix, brother of the deceased River, who by 8min's standards is a wry, grimy, leather-trousered breath of fresh air. Otherwise the dialogue is extraordinarily large and the look of the film so relentlessly dark that its darkness crases to have meaning.

Schumacher may be trying to redeem himself in the eyes of his peers after the garish infantilism of Barman and Robin, or he may be exorcising tawdry demons of his own. A former methamphetamine addict, he has spoken candidly of shooting up five times a day in his youth and of being "one of the most promiscuous people on the planet".

He may even know more than the rest of us about real snuff movies, and be anxious to alert the world to their evil before it spreads. If so, his film is all the more miserable, because it has the grim distinction of taking on an unspeakable atrocity and failing to make us mind about it.

Could this be why the Motion Picture Association of America did not give 8mm an NC-17 rating - a commercial kiss of death that hars adtruth is otherwise, which messes mission to non-adults and crushed

Todd Solondz's vastly more sophisticated Happiness last year? Per-haps. But a furious Kenneth Turan. critic of The Los Angeles Times. thinks the decision has more to do with the might of Sony Pictures need to the relatively puny MPAA, whose costs the studios help to pay. "The ratings board has become so complicit with the major studios that it can't see the forest for the trees," Turan writes. "It no longer has the stomach to insist that a film that graphically investigates the dehumanising, ultra-violent world of snuff films ought to have an NC-17 placed on it no matter what nips and tucks the studio coyly agrees to

here were no such controversies over The Other Sis-ter, which came second among new releases at the box office and could not have offered a more extreme contrast to 8mm in form, content or entertainment value. This poignant confection was directed by Garry Mar-shall who, like Schumacher, has a reputation for pleasing audiences more than critics, although he goes about it in a rather different way.

In 1989 he sugar-coated a dark. trendy script about a prostitute hired by a businessman for a week and turned it into Pretty Woman, one of the most profitable live-artion films in history. Marshall likes jokes, schmaltz and, above all, weddings. His next film, Julia Roberts's reunion with Richard Gere in Runaway Bride, has five of them. The Other Sister has just two. Both feature Diane Keaton in

one of the least sympathetic roles of her career as a buttoned-up San Francisco society mother who first marries off her prettiest daughter in high style, and then looks on as her mentally handicapped daugh-ter gets married whether Mum likes it or not. Juliette Lewis, she of Cape Fear and Natural Born Killers, plays the other sister of the title - her first big part in three years and one that should ensure her res-



Nicolas Cage in 8mm, a film which takes on an unspeakable atrocity and fails to make us mind about it

urrection after a well-publicised

struggle with drugs. But it is Giovanni Ribisi, the medical orderly in Saving Private Ryan, who steals the film as Lewis's slow-witted suitor. The New York Times called The Other Sister "a beautifully acted love story". Peo-ple magazine called it "soft and gooey as a marshmallow". Others complained of being "manipulated", but this is critics' code. It means: I never meant to, but I cried.

US WEEKEND BOX-OFFICE TAKINGS

. (4)	Sona (Columbia)	\$14.8m/
(1)	Pavhack (Paramount)	
4	The Other Sister (Touchstone)	\$6.7m/
(2)	Message in a Bottle (Warner)	\$6.4m \$32.1
(3)	My Favorrite Martian (Daney).	\$5.2m \$19.5
(4)	October Sky (Linsersal)	\$5m \$5.9
(6)	Shakaspeare to Love (Airamas)	\$4.4m:854.
(5)	Blast From the Past (New Line)	\$3.7m \$16.
Ì	October Sky (Universal)	\$3.6m/\$49.
(4)	200 Cigarettes (Paramount)	\$3.2m

• First amount is estimated weekend takings. Feb 26-28. Second amount is

BUILDING A

A guide to the best classical recordings in

conjunction with **BBC** Radio 3

MAHLER'S SYMPHONY NO 5 Reviewed by David Mellor

ur starting point must be a fragile and heart-warming piece of musical history, Mengelberg's 1926 Concertgebouw might even say notorious. Adagiet-to. In his hands this movement, lasting just over seven minutes, is not the tear-stained, death-laden thing that some interpreters since Viscontis Death in Venice have made it. Bernard Haitink with the Berlin Philharmonic takes twice as long, and becomes totally becaimed on an ocean of marshmallow.

Bruno Walter knew Mahler well. and anended the premiere of the Symphony in Cologne in 1904. His 1947 performance with the New York Philharmonic takes only 61 minutes as against Haitink's 78. and is indispensable for serious Mahlerians, Recordings of this symphony in the 1970s and 1980s tend towards elephantiasis, but in the 1990s the pendulum has swung back Claudio Abbado in his second recording with the Berliners in 1993 has completely rethought his interpretation of the Adagietto, now taking only nine minutes as against 12 in his 1980 Chicago recording. Overall Abbado is outstanding, the overall performance on DG a marvellous blend of structural integrity and warmth.

Another splendid recent recording comes from Riccardo Chailly and the Royal Concertgebouw Orchestra on Decca, though a slight chilliness in the opening move-ments robs it of top spor. Barbirolli's 1968 EMI recording is rich, ripe and irreplaceable. High marks also to Tennsted's 1988 live Festival Hall performance, and Mackerras with the RLPO, also on EMI, is a fine bargain.

But it is Leonard Bernstein with the Vienna Philharmonic captured live in Frankfurt in 1987 that takes the palm. It is long - 75 minutes - and the Adagietto is riddled with gloom, but Bernstein's complete mastery of Mahler's idiom makes this performance irresistible (DG 423 608-2 £15.99).

 To order the recommended recording, with free delivery, please send a cheque payable to The Times Music Shop to FREEPOST. SCOoS1. Forres. 1\'30 OBR or phone 0345-023 498: e-mail: music@ the-times.co.uk

● Next Saturday on Radio 3 tillant: Schumann's Kreisleriana

Letting us hear his body talk

f a player somehow lost the beat in mid-performance, Jukka-Pekka Saraste's conducting would not provide much of a lifeline. The arms gyrate or elide over the podium. The body wriggles. Is the man from the Finnish Radio Symphony Orchestra learning to fly, cleaning a windscreen or reaching for a book on a top shelf? No, he is conducting Beethoven's Ervica.

Despite Saraste's amusing if ungainly display, the London Philharmonic did more than just keep together. The massive Allegro con brio was bouncy and taut, cresocndos surging enough to suggest the shock the work must have given audiences in 1805. The second movement, the Funeral March, found a satisfying bal-

IT is not only the London orchestras that are immersed in

Mahler at present the great symphonist is also one of the

strands running through Yak-

or Kreizberg's work with his Bournemouth Symphony Or-

chestra. Though the BSO is not packaging it as a series, there have been related events, such as the recent Mahler

study day, and there was a les-

tive excitement about this con-

cert in which they performed

the central Fifth Symphony for

the first time together. Rightly so. Kreizberg's spe-

cial affinity for 20th-century

reperiory is rooted in music

like this. His authority on the

podium and his way of draw-

ing full-blooded yet richly de-

tailed interpretations make

him a convincing Mahlerian.



ance between pomp, sombre grief and martial display. The trio section over, the music's anguish became dramatically amplified when one of the violinists was taken ill and was carried off.

The performance continued in good health: horns refulgent in the scherzo, ebullient radiance in the finale, apart was an honest, workmanlike tour round a

Before the interval the soprano Rita Cullis sang the finale from Strauss's final opera Capriccio. This was not how she had intended spending the evening, but Cheryl Studer, the advertised soloist, had become indisposed with a few hours to

spare. Cullis bravely came to the rescue. Also in this unhappy first half, the Festival Hall's deconstructing acoustic killed off any opulence in the opera's string sextet, and in the orchestral interlude Saraste's gyrating arms could not stop an unmagical solo horn dampening Strauss's effusions. It was Beethoven's night.

GEOFF BROWN

The platform had been much emptier earlier for an account of Mozart's Violin Concerto No 4 that provided a perfect contrast to Mahler, Kreizberg drew crisp yet warm sound in the Anvil's wonderfully alive acoustics, and ensured good balance with the sweetly expressive tone of the soloist. Pamela Frank. The American violinist performed with easy flair, playing through each phrase to give the music full value. She took the lead in the hittersweet slow movement. and together with Kreizberg set up a lively exchange in the dancing finale.

JOHN ALLISON

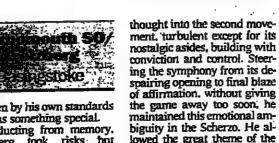
from one lurching rallentando. This was not, finally, an Eroica to lift the roof but it



but even by his own standards this was something special. Conducting from memory. Kreizberg took risks but showed real command of the

work's structure. His opening of the Funeral March was daringly dark, measured rather than restless, but he also caught the vehemence of its stormy episodes.

He continued this train of



maintained this emotional ambiguity in the Scherzo. He allowed the great theme of the Adagietto to uncoil naturally, moulding the details, without milking it. The finale had sweep, but the triumphant close still came as a surprise.

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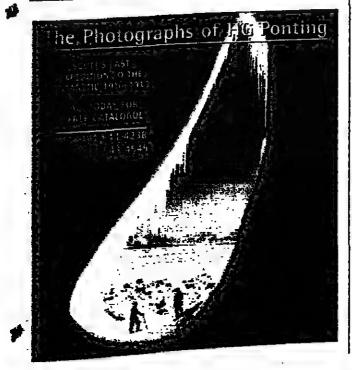
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Verdict on Spring Loaded Secrets

Set for a royal liaison

DANCE: Royal Ballet choreographer Michael Corder is on a spectacular

roll, Allen Robertson reports

e has just plucked the juiciest plum off the tree. The Royal Ballet has invited Michael Corder to choreograph the first new fulllength ballet to be danced by the company when it moves back into its renovated home Corder busy. His career is on a roll. English National Ballet recently revived his Cinderellength ballet to be danced by at Covent Garden.

A staging of Les Li-aisons Dangereuses, it will be performed to a commissioned score by Ri-chard Rodney Ben-

cutting Despite a career that spans 25 years and includes some edge is 40 ballets, this will be the first time that next year's Corder, 43, has worked with a compassé ⁵ missioned score. "My entire inspira-

- emotionally, rhythmically, stylistically, structurally comes from the music 1 choose. Music has always been my canvas. I use it to find my colours and my textures." He has wanted to stage this

tion for choreogra-

18th-century drama for nearly a decade now, "Ever since I first had the idea, I have been trying to find the right composer. I have listened to Russian. American. French, even German music, trying to find the right style. Then I stumbled across a piece by Richard.

"I liked his music immediately. He is wonderfully rhythmic and he is not afraid to use melody. And, even though he is now based in New York, he is English to boot. I had never even met Richard when I proposed the idea," adds Corder. "But he said yes immediately." In this case immediately means February 2002. In between there is much to keep

la, which won both the Olivier This and Evening Standard awards when it was first staged year's three years ago.
Romeo and Juliet, his other fulllength Prokofiev staging, will arrive in London in November when the Norwegian Na-tional Ballet per-

> his latest piece, Masquerade, will be seen as part of the Royal Ballet's Dance Bites tour in Bath. Choreographed to the orchestral suite from Stravin-sky Pulcinello, it leasures costumes by Anthony Ward.

forms at Sadler's

Wells. And tonight

"It is called Masquerade because I wanted to make it clear right from the start that this is not Pulcinella. There isn't a narrative. I want you to see it as a suite of dances." So Corder has sidelined Stravinsky's arch commedia dell'arte scenario. "I like the atmosphere and the smell of those commedia stories, but Masquerade is a musical piece coming from a musical standpoint.

"For me," Corder insists. "dance is always about dancing. If you can say something



Michael Corder rehearsing his new ballet Masquerade with members of the Royal Ballet: "Tve got more and more Classical as I've got older"

better by writing an opera or a play or doing a film or a musi-cal, then do that. I am interested in pieces that relate to danc-

"If it doesn't sound too oldfashioned, I do believe dancing is spiritual. It is the beauty and the generosity of the soul expressed through movement. I try to distil that essence in

every ballet I do." Corder has been a part of the Royal Ballet family ever

since he started ballet classes there as a child. His first choreographic commission for Covent Garden. L'Invitation au voyage, was nominated for an Olivier Award and in the mid-1980s he went on to collaborate with the distinguished painters Patrick Caulfield and Helen Frankenthaler.

But, following a run-in with Frankenthaler's lawyers over costume designs that Corder wanted replaced, his profes-

sional standing collapsed. The whole thing blew up in all our faces. I was not treated properly, but I survived."

ow he has come full circle and is back with the Royal Ballet for the first time in 14 years. "That whole mess is finished. You don't forget, but it's important to move on.

Corder is impressed by the current atmosphere at the Roymoment. In my own rehearsals, at least, there is a feeling of optimism. It had all been bumping along the bottom but is now on the way up. Returning to Covent Garden is enormously exciting, a catalyst for

a new beginning for the company. Finally, everyone can see that there is light at the end of the tunnel."

Masquerade stars three of the Royal's top ballerinas: Viviana Durante, Miyako Yoshida and Leanne Benjamin. "It has been a joy to work with such fabulous dancers. Their technical expertise, their musicality and their ability to know how to work is wonderful.

Tve got more and more Classical as I've got older," Corder adds, when asked to assess his style. "I hope I am upholding a tradition, that I am part of a lineage. That is what

I am aspiring to. Yes, the Classical language is always changing, but there building blocks. I am not interested in being cutting edge because this year's cutting edge is often next year's passe. Of course I understand that Classical ballet is a branch of showbusiness, but I really think it's important not to dumb down. Any layman can be touched by the power of Classical ballet if the passion, clarity, form and

structure are communicated. "It is not just about me trying to have a terrific career," he adds. "I believe passionately in the uplifting qualities of Classical dance, and in having a good time in the theatre."

• Dance Bites is at the Theatre Royal, Bath, tonight, a second Dance Bites tour is at the Civic Theatre, Darlington, tonight. Tel: 0171-212 9266 for full tour details

and sulphur

ondon's Spring Loaded festival of contempo-rary dance turned the spotlight on two emerging Brit-ish choreographers last week Charles Linehan, who last year won the £17,000 Jerwood Award for Young Choreographers, makes a quiet state-ment with his gentle and unas-suming dances. Wayne Mc-Gregor, on the other hand, makes a big noise in his mission to prove that dance and

technology are great partners.
Linehan's modest programme (at The Place) was a
triple bill of secretive and inward-looking pieces. Number Stations, a danced semaphore set to short-wave recordings of various intelligence agencies, is a curiosity — and mildly interesting — while The Secret, a quartet set to cheesy Hawaiian melodies, is a demure little number that plays with the au-dience by constantly diverting attention from itself.

The most ambitious item on the bill was Preludes and Fugues, set to a piano score by Shostakovich (played live by Marko Martin). A dance for three, it amounts to choreo-

LONDON DANCE ROUND UP!

graphic small talk, its argument the product of a rather languid intellect.

McGregor's offering, Sul-phur 16, is a hyperactive 70 minutes of strange and slip-pery dances for his Random Dance Company (at the Queen Elizabeth Hall) that are as volatile as volcanoes. His 16 darting fragments of dance (each just over four minutes) throw out the oddest shapes

and most illogical phrases.

Sulphur 16 is the second (the first was The Millennarium in a trilogy devoted to exploring the dance potential of new technologies. McGregor's choreography has been devised with the aid of the computeranimation programme Poser and with digital video material which was played in reverse to give an alternative view of the architecture of the move-ment. DVD, thermal-imaging cameras and God knows what else went into the soup. Whatever its genesis, the choreography does seem to reach parts of the body other choreographies don't

McGregor's movement language is restless and unre-solved: the dancers give the impression of people tormented by insects. The constant paradoxes in the writing have the effect of disembodying the dancers and as you watch them iab, stab and armov the performing space you do won-

der at the why of it all. At 70 minutes, the frenzy of body-shocking currents be-gins to read like an exercise in choreography. The music (credit Zoviet France) - a more or less constant drone is a dead zone which only increases the monotony.

Yet McGregor is amazingly inventive and energetic, and he is clearly on to something with this technology business. All he needs now is to harness his enthusiasm for all things digital to a more cohesive dance statement.

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his week The Times has teamed up with 20th Century Fox to offer readers the chance to see an exclusive preview screening of Waking Ned on Sunday morning, March 14 (exact times will be on the ticket). The film, a raucous modern fairy tale, was a surprise hit at the Cannes Film Festival and won rave reviews when it opened in America at Christmas. Inspired by a true story, Waking Ned follows the comic exploits of two friends as they stumble into a lottery scam of hilanous

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THE TIMES WAKING NED PREVIEW

CHANGING TIMES

A knight to remember

is a lineage. You need those

AT THIS stage of his career Bryn Terfel can apparently do no wrong. Every role he undertakes adds another cubit to his international reputation. Tak-ing on Falstall for the first time in an unfamiliar house, away from his usual haunts of New York and central Europe. the British baritone was greeted with something close to rapture by a first-night audience that included a sizeable number of wellwishers from

his native North Wales. Although this is his first Falstaff, there was nothing timid or half-hearted about his interpretation of a role he can develon at will. He was not afraid to sing it like the young man he is, and his characterisation of the lecherous knight will obviously deepen with the years.

But this will do for starters. British audiences do not have long to wait to judge for themselves. A new production of Falstaff, conducted by Bernard Haitink, will reopen the Royal Opera House in December, when Terfel will be again be rolled out of the laundry basket into the Thames. And if the production is as handsome and clear-sighted as the one directed by Simon Phillips, which is now in its fourth year,

it will be a happy event. Falstaff is not an opera that lends itself to absurd representation. There are the merry wives, the lovers, Fenton and Nannetta, beneath the stairs, assorted buffoons and the Lord of Misrule himself. All the director has to do is draw the humour that arises naturally, and make sure everybody turns up in Windsor Park on the stroke of midnight. Apart from some coarse acting in the Garter Inn., when the comic exchanges of Bardol-fo and Pistola, Falstaff's followers, were anything but funny, Phillips kept a tight rein on the

Yvonne Kenny made a splendidly manipulative Alice Ford and Irene Waugh was a win-ning Mistress Quickly. In the pit, Simone Young conducted this glittering score with both body and weightlessness, ex-



celling in a memorable third act of gossamer delights. Phillips found his best touches for the Windsor scenes with a set that could also do service for A Midsummer Night's Dream. But it was Terfel's night.

Despite his bulk, Terfel's Palstaff has a spring-heeled lightness of touch that suggests the former ducal page-

exciting and some not. But al-

crossed by the ferryman who

boy could have had a courtly bearing if he had spent less time on the sauce. The knight "in full summer bloom" ap-pears, in these hands, to be just that in the first three acts, and it is to Terfel's credit that the autumnal tints stop short of November. His voice, rich, deep, and flexible, is an magnificent instrument. As a vocal treat and an exercise in stagecraft, it was a knockout and it is coming to London later this

year. Lucky old London.

MICHAEL HENDERSON

Goethe turns to lead

n just another six months Goethe will be THEATRE 250 years old and, if the ensuing celebrations run true to form, we shall be treated to exhibitions of Goethe in His Time, Goethe in Our Time, Goethe for All Time, some of which will be must be paid, the snake that

ready, one thing is certain. No tribute will be as boringswallows the gold, the exiled prince, the lily whose touch kills, the temple rising from ly futile as this dire produc tion by Michael Chase's Mask Studio, based upon a the waters, the wonderful bridge. Suitably distilled for fairytale Goethe wrote at a time when alchemy interest-My ears wax over when earnest folk seek to interest me in the gobbledegook of severatio, conjunctio, coagu-latio and the other alchemi-

consequences, is interlard the Goethe episodes with cal processes, climaxing in the "Royal Marriage", when vummy transformations are supposed to occur and love unites all. But disbelief can always be suspended if the theatrical context is right. The original Goethe I have seen only in a numbing 19thcentury translation, but an adaptation could perhaps be made, in Yeatsian Noh-play mode, of the story's mysteri-ous elements: the river

the stage, we might see all this as an image of personal growth, acceptance of opposites and the like. It might even look pretty.

But what Chase and his writer. Michael Burton, have chosen to do, with fatal

scenes of their own. The idea is to bring relevance and show that alchemical principles can inspire us in our modern world. Thus we have a group of travellers stranded at a neglected railway station waiting for the delayed midnight train. The train won't come till you're ready for it," observes the porter, smiling under his

36-hour wait is interrupted by irruptions of Goethe, where the businessman becomes a moping prince, the prostitute turns into the lily, the lady clinging to her porcelain figures becomes the

green snake und so weiter.

The clonking banality of the writing in these modern scenes will be hard to convey. Just one example - the porcelain lady (named Beatrice, oh dear) remarks: Holes appear in life and I am beckoned by nothingness." There are masks, as you would expect from the company's name, which will not persuade sceptics of the value of this genre. Chase's idea of the impertance of movement seems primitive - swaying in unison, that

sort of thing. I liked the Ferryman's rowing, and the names of the lovers. Anna Wynnyczuk and Mahaima van der Sloot. I liked the four gongs, al-though it's ridiculous to have their notes (D, G and so on) pencilled across the front of them. I liked nothing else at

woolly cap. And indeed, on JEREMY KINGSTON

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Rolling with the punch lines

COMEDY: Adam Bloom's diversions down the weirder byways of his mind turn small jokes into big ones, says Clive Davis

he mercurial lyrics of Twisted, the beboppers' psychoa-nalysis anthem, uncolled from the speakers before both halves of Adam Bloom's show at the Bloomsbury Theatre. An apt choice. Bloom's verbal flourishes can be every bit as intricate - and as re-

The man is his own best heckler, constantly interrupting his own chain of thought with one well-timed digression after another before slowly edging back to his original theme. The jokes often start out small but soon gather momentum. Reflections on a faulty ballpoint pen

lead seamlessly into a cheeky bit of pantomime about the status of women in Saudi marriages. To explain the connection would take up a whole column. Trust me, therefore, that there is a weird logic

Now in the middle of a lengthy solo tour, the London comic walked off with a People's Choice award at the Edinburgh Festival last year. His audience becomes very much part of his act: at one point he

jumps off the stage and turns the stalls into his own Speaker's Corner. A spontaneous approach, however, does not always work miracles, especially when stretched across two sets... Exchanging banter with an American, he could not help falling back on tired digs at foreign tourists who mis-

The general level of inspiration dipped markedly after the interval. Bloom's deconstructionist tendencies, never that far from the surface, tended to undercut the punch lines. "I'm not funny any more, am i?" he asked at one stage. Spoken in jest, but a dangerous question all the same. Obsessed with the riuts and bolt of rais-

ing laughter, he risked being mistaken for the over-clever narrator of a Martin Amis novel. His finale — a comedy version of those kitsch trans-atlantic guides to the secrets of the magicians' trade - only served to draw attention to the fact that the jokes were not quite strong enough in the first place...

But the rest of the evening had been an engaging blend of the cere-bral and the everyday. He has the intelligence of an academic and the instincts of a pub-quiz contestant. A Lad lurks in there too, though he is generally kept on a tight leash,

Bloom wears his Jewishness lightly, mulling over his relationship with a mother who is still capa-• He is his the of sending a Valen-tine's card. Death can sudown best denly beat its wings in the. heckler. air, but he assuages moments of existential dread with the thought that disrupting God, far from being omnipotent, may be a contesthis chain of ant struggling against the clock on The Generation

thought? Schooldays provided another recurrent theme as he recalled the humiliation of being outshone by the class genius. H. 's very good, too, at catching the e sive instant when childhood's blind optimism starts to give way to reality. The boy leaps at an invitation to a party; the adult starts freiting about how few people he will know there....

The admission within had its opportunity in shine when, for no very obvious reason, he challenged himself to a duel with a Rubik's Cube. He' won; his fingers spinning in all direc-

By now the music had switched to The Who's Pinball Wizard - the perfect soundtrack to accompany a pinball mind.



Full bloom: Adam Bloom combines "the intelligence of an academic with the instincts of a pub-quiz contestant"

Bit of beef on the bone

GIG number five of a 27-date British tour that will occupy Gene throughout March took place in a function room that looked ready for a wedding reception. And there are those who feel that the band, whose third full-length album Revelations was released yesterday, are playing on while the guests are rattling their keys and saving their goodbyes.

Gene have toiled deep in the mineshaft of British rock for some five years, and while not without reward, have never quite struck the seam that would ensure wider recognition. They have spent aimost as much time sidestepping accusations of being too ioppish, too Morrissey obsessed, too timelocked in Britpop as they have building a body of songs that is easily dismissed but, especially on this showing, surprisingly resilient

There never will be any getting away from their artistic



kinship with the former. Smith, but while the fey vulnerability of some of Gene's early sones betrays that lineage, they have developed a more solid backbone. The piano motif of You'll Never Walk Again, the last song on Revelations, heralded their arrival, as the curtain lifted to reveal that the tune was being picked out by Mick Talbot, once Paul Weller's ivory-tinkler in the Style Council.

Not that many of the student-filled audience were old enough to remember. "He looks about 40," said one. Guilty as charged: Talbot is in-deed 40, and called on his wide experience to augment

the group's standard fourpiece to good effect. Aptly, per-haps, the song that followed his introduction was Where Are They Now?.

Gene may have a decade or so on him, but they do a better line in melancholy than boisterousness. Lead singer Martin Rossiter remains a debonair if downbeat frontman, and there was much to enjoy in new songs such as Mayday and Something in the Water.

The most vociferous response was for Speak to Me Someone, the smash-that-never-was from their last album, Drawn to the Deep End. That compelling ballad represented the big idea that could have projected Gene beyond their own constituency. Home support remains robust, but without the element of surprise. their window of wider opportunity now seems just a fanlight.

PAUL SEXTON

THE Finnish musician Jimi Tenor is said to have arrived Lassi let on stage at recent gigs atop a white stallion and sporting a off the 50ft silver cape. His entrance at London's Improv - a comedy club too small to accommodate a horse - was low-key in leash comparison, but striking nevertheless. Wearing a sequined, electric-blue suit, 1970s-style

Jimi Tenor Improv, W1

crowd of scruffy students, trendy twentysomethings and conservative couples, a strange sight even by his own high standards.

The show opened with Year of the Apocalypse, originally recorded with a Finnish choir and due out soon as Organism's first single. Throughout the misleadingly titled track - an upbeat, infectious fusion of jazz, Funkadelic-like grooves and lyrics about celebrating life - Tenor stayed seated at the organ. The following hour of so, however, saw him fresing into a microphone which distorted his atonal vocals or layered them in echo. Sometimes he sounded like George Benson, sometimes David Byrne. When he whispered, he could have been Jarvis Cocker. Mostly, though, he sounded Backed by a three-piece

quently stroll to centre stage to

brass section, a keyboardist and a bassist. Tenor breezed through about a dozen songs chosen from both his albums. Highlights included the Organism opener Total Devastation, which had the entire audience dancing, and the early single Sugar Daddy, which closed the show to rapturous applause. Unusually subdued. Tenor — who had exchanged his flashy suit for jeans - simply sauntered offstage, ignoring calls for an encore.

During the performance, he had drunk glass after glass of champagne, served to him on a silver tray by a glamorous girl. Perhaps the alcohol had gone straight to his head.

LISA VERRICO

RECOMMENDED TODAY

Guide to arts and entertainment compiled by Marit Hargie

THE NETURN OF DON JUAN: World premiers of Kim Brandshup's updated service of the delesso talls with a new score by Kim Helweg. Former Royal Ballet stor Irek Mulrhamedov joins the Arc Dance Company in the role of the notivious charges. notorious rake. Sadier's Wells (0171-713 6000). Toraght. 7.30pm. (3)

THREE DAYS OF RAIN: Elizabeth McGovern heads the cast of Richan Greenberg's play, greatly fixed at th Manhattan Theetre Club last year. Robin Letevra directs this journey back to 1980. Donmar Werehouse (0171-369) SLAVA'S SNOWSHOW: The

excellent Russian clown returns bringing with him new material as well as Angela de Castro, and his unforgettable finale. unforgettable finale. Piccadiffy (0171-369 1734). Opens

THE TSARIMA'S SLIPPERS: The Guildhall School of Music and Drama unearths another rare operatic gent. Tchalkovsky's colourful tale, directed by Stephen Medicall, is a co-produc-tion with the London Contemporary Pages School Sour profess only. Dance School. Four nights only, Barbican (0171-638 8891), Opens TANGO: The suitry sounds of Asio

Piazzolla can be savoured as Latviolin virtuoso Gidon Kremer gets grips with the works of the great

ELSEWHERE

GLASGOW: The late Sarah Kane's conjudersial Phaedra's Love radically

Irek Mukhamedov dances at Sadler's Wells

and brutally reworks the classical myth Peter Macket Burns directs for Ghos-lown. For the strong of stomach only Citizans' (0141-429 0022) Opens tonight, 7 30pm NOTTINGHAM, Northern Ballet

Theetre's modern take on Carmen, Bost's immonal tale of fatal attraction, makes as tirst atop on the company's Theatre Royal (0115 989-5555). STRATFORD-UPON-AVON: FOUR Net Baural directs Warvann's corp-prondial foderher to see wast pableaus prompt soverest target real and

NEW WEST END SHOWS

☐ BAREFACED CHIC: Fascinating Aida play here for a month before setting off on their latest rational lour. This time Carle Peters directs. Royal, Haymerket (0171-850 8800), § TALK OF THE CITY: Stephen Pol-L) TALK OF THE CITY: Suppren Por stroff's potentially tascrating play about BBC cersorsing in the 1930s. With David Westhead and a charasmetic Angus Wright. Young Vio (0171-928 6363).

☐ THE FOREST: Alan Ayckbourn pts Ostrovsky's sardonic 1870 nedy, with Michael Feast's impow hed actor trying to impress his nch aung (Frances de la Tout) Lythellon (0171-452 3000) 👸

PADDY IRISHMAN, PADDY ENGLISHMAN AND PADDY-7: TWO insh exites in Kithum lell in with a hard men: Anthony Clark's Bristi ham Ben pooduction armes here

AVENUE: Richard Dreytuss and

DEL GUIJOTE: Start of the Gam's new Tafois' weapon: Cavati Johnston's new adaptation of Cervanies, directed by Marta Momblant Ribas, Gate Theatre (0171-229 0706). stry (0171-229 0706).

merpretation of Goethe's lary use. The Green Snake and the Beautiful Lify, with purpose and, of course, masks. See review, page 20. Riverside Studios (0181-237 1111). THE NUALAS: Insh ell-girl saturical

singing two bring harmony, hisority and a sharp look at humanity Drill Hall (0171-637 8270). SHOCKHEADED PETER: Wonder-

tally sinister show by the Gultural Industry team with the Tiger Littles and Martyn Jacquea's talsetto screech, Lyrio (0181-741 8701 2311). 63 and Hammerstein Lyceum (0171-416 6099)

FILMS ON GENERAL RELEASE

James Christopher's choice of the latest movies

NEW RELEASES THE THIN RED LINE (15): A

cast of American soldiers lose thes cast or American account uses their sandy in the South Pacific during the Second World War. Terrence Mabok's first lim for 20 years as un artispoc masterpiese, Web Sean Penn. Jim Caviezel, Ben Chaphri.Nick Note. YOUVE GOT MAIL [PG]. Builet-proof

romantic blockbuster with Tom Hanks and Meg Ryan who fall in love on the Internet Written and directed by Nora Ephron. PAINTED ANGELS (15): Bleak paried bace about the prostance who serviced the frontiersmen of Wild West. A pyless plod between the amely pursers and the drab wooden rooms by Jon Sanders. men of the

TITANIC TOWN (15): Julia Watters cels as a pugnacions Catholic rusewie in this gran review of

PERDITA DURANGO (18): Rosie Perez and Javier Bardern and two Tex-Mex pyschopaths who run amol in a careless road move involving voodoo, frozen foetuses and drugs. voodoo, frozen foetuses Alex de la Iglesia directs. URBAN LEGEND (16). Dire James Blanks hower thek their stashes

CURRENT

AFFLICTION (15): Paul Schreder's bruising parsart of a frustrated small-town cop. Note Note and James Coburn put in powerful

performances as father and son caught in a cycle of male violence THIS YEAR'S LOVE (18) David of their love lives among the junk stalls, With Kathy Burke, Jennales

MOLY MAN (PG). Eddie Murphy'n naive spreual guru and Jeff Goldblum's sleazy TV executive team up to sell inferior products on a shopping channel. Director Stephen Heres flogs the salmir rather lass keenly than his big name sters. LIFE IS BEAUTIFUL (PG) Roberto

Benight's romantic Second World War facte stackes a disaurong cornedy into the Holocausi Supremey well acted but the comic treatment of the Strupgle to survivo in a depth camp is at best

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shades and an oddly-shaped,

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An enigmatic musical mis-

fit, Tenor - whose real name

is Lassi Lehto - single-hand-

edly writes, arranges and

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modern jazz and loungecore with 1970s funk, film noir and

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an artist, he has been a cult fig-ure both at home and abroad

since the release two years ago

of his first album. Intervision.

to promote its follow-up. Or-

ganism, launched last week,

Tenor attracted a capacity

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and a squalling saxophone.

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The Tories, on a hiding to nothing

Labour's last landslide was only a

start, predicts Gerald Kaufman

traw in the doghouse (say some). Cook and Lloyd in trouble with the Foreign Affairs Select Committee. Fears about GM foods cut Labour's opinion poll lead. Yet that lead is still far higher than on election day in May 1997. And Tony Blair's de. Even after that worst phenomenal popularity en-dures, while that of William Hague explores previously un-"Ah." say the wiseacres (as

they have been saying since Blair succeeded as Labour leader in 1994), "it can't last." Mid-term blues are sure to set in, the Tories will recover support and, even if Labour wins the next election, it will

be with a reduced majority. Really? Why? We are in mid-term already, with a general election quite likely the year after next. Although the Government still seems brand new, it has been in office for a year and ten months. Yet, although some of its ratings have been dented by recent controversies. its predominance over the Conservatives continues, with the Liberal Democrats as almost irrelevant also-rans. All the objective evidence points to a landslide even greater than

In 1997 I told Tony Blair he would obtain at least 400 Labour MPs, and he did **Ambitious** not believe me, expecting a majority of about 50. Yet not Tory MPs only the opinion polls but canvassshould ing evidence pointed to an enormous consider Labour win. Sir John Gorst believed me sufficienta new ly to put money on his Labour oppocareer nent gaining the

So inbred was the Labour Party's culture of defeat that even senior members could not bring themselves to credit the possibility of the historic win they went on to achieve. Similarly, despite the 1997 landslide and the continuing popularity of the Government, some ministers gaze at me as if I were mad when I assure them that the party will gain

Hendon seat he

seats at the next election. Yet the likelihood of such a victory is obvious. For anyone with eyes to see, the entire British political landscape has been transformed. From 1945 to 1997, inclusive, that landscape was easily discernible. On the left was Labour. On the right were the Tories. In between were the Liberals, or whatever they happened to be

bestowing their lickle favours. Now, however, the Liberal Democrats have become the left-wing party, taking over from the discredited and impotent hard-Left remnant inside the Parliamentary Labour Party the advocacy of increased social spending and increased taxes to pay for it. If that profligate attitude were alone insufficient to make alliance with the Tories impossible, the Lib Dems' extreme pro-Europeanism makes any association with the Eurosceptic Conservative leadership inconceivable.

The Lib Dems are now, despite their increased Commons representation, a Parliamentary appendage of new Labour. One Lib Dem MP complained to me: "The Labour Party are taking us for a ride." I replied: "Yes; but it's the only ride you've got." As for the Conservatives, they have turned themselves into a fringe party, weaker even than Labour was after its 1983 longest-suicide-note deba-

electoral setback in its history, Labour's continued existence was necessary, since there were millions of voters who would have been unrepresented without it; the poor, the deprived, the unemployed, the ethnic minorities. There is, on the other hand, no significant element in society which would be unrepresented if the Tories shut up shop, especially since we now have a very different sort of Labour Party.

Under Margaret Thatcher the Tories were an exclusive party - motto, Those who are not with us are against us" who triumphed because their opponents were divided. Under Tony Blair, Labour is inclusive, with the motto: "Those who are not against us may be with us." New Labour is not the centre party, but the centre-of-gravity party, with Blair daily adjusting the tiller to maintain his Government's dominance of British politics, with the Tories and Liberals

> choose to occupy. Moreover, those spaces are liable to contract. Labour's 1997 landslide, though overwhelming, was incom-plete. Because of the residue of the extremism and division that pervaded Labour until Blair took over, many feared that the old Labour Party wolf

lurked beneath the new Labour carapace. Two years of new Labour Government have banished that phantom. Many 1997 Conservatives may also vote for Blair next

time because he, unlike Hague, is leaving the door to a European currency open. A recent MORI pol showed that one third of Conservative voters would support a pro-euro Conservative Party; such a party is liable to siphon off Tory votes — and maybe seats — in this year's European elections conducted on a proportional representation system. In a first-past-thepost general election. Tory Europhiles might turn to Labour. Furthermore, a substantial proportion of 1997's 46 Lib Dem victors were elected partly on Labour tactical votes. Voters in some of those constituencies might decide to have real new Labour rather than

The scene, then, is set for a huge Labour victory at the next election. If, this spring. the Tories make headway in the local, Welsh, Scottish and even European elections, we shall be told that the Conservatives have made a comeback. Labour made big gains in the local and European elections in the 1980s, but was trounced in Parliamentary elections. Ambitious Tory MPs should look to alternatives to the ministerial careers they will

The author is Labour MP for Manchester Gorton

comment@the-times.co.uk



No laughing matter

s chilly gales rake the land and the Home Secretary sweeps back to chastise us. LI offer two cheerful pieces of news on the nation's moral health. One is that the first edition of The Beano, a limp relic from 1938, has sold after a frenzied auction for the record sum of £6,200, complete with free Whoopee Mask and a cast of characters including Big Eggo the Ostrich, Ping the Elastic Man, Hank the Slapdash Sheriff and

Uncle Windbag.
A sentimental tear springs to the eve. We shall not look upon their like again! Or perhaps, come to think of it, the tear is brought on by the fact that we look upon their like rather too often. For what is that weekly contest across the dispatch boxes, if not a duel between Ping the Elastic Man and the bald-pated ostrichian figure of Big Eggo himself? Meanwhile Uncle Windbag jets

home from the Riviera to lecture us all on our failures of citizenship, and his sidekick, Hank the Slapdash Sheriff — Shriek! Gnash! Aargh! manages to put a dummy security camera on the most sensitive site in London. The Beano got there first.

The other encouraging cultural news is from a conference at the National Film Theatre: the Carry On films are having a youth revival. Dr Andrew Medhurst, of Sussex University, informs us that students no longer despise such classics as Carry On Camping, but embrace them. "In Blair's Britain," he says, "we're always being told to be decent upstanding citizens. It's no surprise that people turn to some-thing that says 'Sod that. Let's get drunk and have a bit of a grope and

a laugh'."

Well, he may be right, although
have not drinking and groping have not exactly vanished from the TV schedules. Myself, I offer an opposing analysis. I think we are nostal-gic for the Carry On films for the same reason that we treasure The Beano: we are bored with freedom, and nostalgic for rules and for a time when it really was fun to send up authority and respectability. ause both could be taken comfortably for granted. As the century ends in an atmosphere of sneering, debunking and joyless sexual may-hem, we are homesick for lost

boundaries. It is no fun being Dennis the Menace if there is no furious Dad to chase you with a slipper. The contemplation of foul-mouthed

In an age of sneering, Post-Modernist cynicism, we have forgotten the joke

ladettes may make us yearn to hear Barbara Windsor squeak "Blimey!" again; the age of angsty, chippy professional superwomen might well bring on a sneaking nostalgia for the majestic confidence of Ma-tron Hattie Jacques, bearing down on her victim with an giant enema. There is nothing like a background of stability and duliness to make

jokes shine. Look how moist-eyed Britain became upon the death of dear Derek Nimmo, the hopeless Rev Noote of

All Gas and Gaiters: we were reminded of the sheer fun to be had from mocking the clergy in the days when it the BBC trembled; today Dawn French can portray a mancrazy Vicar of Dibley with hardly a frisson (but fewer laughs). Remember when cinemas rocked with wicked laughter at James Robertson Justice playing the consult-ant Sir Lancelot

Spratt, or Alastair Sim impersonating headmistress. Where are the awe-

some figures of authority now? Spitting Images, every one, assumed to be discredited before they even begin; endlessly renewable fodder for the dry, mirthless, Post-Modern ironies of the Angus Deay-

We have lost the true pleasures of baiting sacred cows because the only sacred cows now are PC ideologies, whose ascendancy can be challenged only by being nasty about the vulnerable. The beauty of mocking authority, from The Beano to Sgt Bilko, was that authority could take it: the best jokes stood up for fallible, naughty humanity, rather than doing it down.

Remember the radio classic Round the Horne, in which a notionally strait-laced Britain revelled in the mincing innuendo of Julian and Sandy and their perennial cry of "Ooh, in nee bold!"? That heady sense of baffling the censor is

lost today, when Channel 4 seems hardly even bold in showing the seduction of a 15-year-old boy by an older man, and even teenagers groan "Oh no, not another transsexual prostitute" as they zap away from the BBC to a multisexual

punch-up on Jerry Springer.
There is nothing to be daring about, now. My favourite birthday present is an original copy of the BBC Variety Programmes Policy Guide for 1948, including the famous: Absolute ban upon Jokes about the following:

nacy in men; Immorality of any kind. to: Honeymoon cou-Prostitution: Ladies underwear, e.g. winter draws on; Animal habits, e.g. rabbits: Lodgers; Com-mercial travellers.

It adds that "the vulgar use of such words as 'basket' must also be avoided" and bans Bible jokes, with the mysterious exception of those about Noah. Against that background it is easy to see why a golden

age of comedy bloomed in the 1950s. The best analysis comes from George Orwell, writing in 1942 about the postcards of Donald McGill. He contrasts them with American and continental cartoons and notes their moral core: "Whereas in papers like Esquire or La Vie Parisienne, the imaginary background of the jokes is always promiscuity, the utter break-down of all standards, the background of the McGill postcard is marriage. The four leading jokes are nakedness, illegitimate babies, old maids and newly married couples, none of which would seem furmy in a really dissolute or even "sophisticated

society."

He cites the joke of a young husband getting out of bed the day after the wedding, with inset the picture of the front doorstep bearing four days' newspapers and milk, and observes: "Its implication -

and this is just the implication that Esquire or The New Yorker would avoid at all costs - is that marriage is something profoundly exciting and important, the biggest event in the average human being's life. So also with jokes about nagging wives and tyrannous mothers-in-law. They do at least imply a stable society in which marriage is indissol-uble and family loyalty taken for

McGill and the rest; Orwell said, represented a safety-valve, a neces-sary raspberry blown at inspirational "speeches of Prime Ministers, solidarity songs of public schools and left-wing political parties, na-tional anthems, Temperance tracts, papal encyclicals and sermons against gambling and contraception". Yet in that wartime year, he saw them against a background of an essentially solid community: "Nevertheless the high sentiments always win in the end; leaders who offer blood, toil, tears and sweat always get more out of their followers than those who offer safety and a good time. When it comes to the pinch, human beings

are heroic. "Women face childbed and the scrubbing brush, revolutionaries keep their mouths shut in the torture chamber, battleships go down with their guns still firing when their decks are awash. It is only that the other element in man, the lazy, cowardly, debt-bilking adulterer who is inside all of us, can never be suppressed altogether and needs a hearing occasionally . . ." That 1940s world and its values are

Torty-seven years on, we speak more often of our-right to be well-treated than of our duty to be good, still less heroic. Maybe the lazy, grumbling, promiscuous, promise-break-ing, debunking creature has broken too far out. Maybe our nostalgia for the comedy of the sober and dutiful mid-century years recognises that. back the days when Joe Englishman was still on his best behaviour, still met adversity with "mustn't grum-ble" and "worse things happen at sea", and needed McGill and The Beano and Frankie Howerd and Sid James to blow his raspberries for him. Today everything is a grumble or a raspberry. It gets less funny by the day.

comment@the-times.co.uk

The love of Mike

DIANE ABBOTT starred with Michael Portillo and played the Tory's wife in a school play, I have learnt. The lefty MP was at Harrow County Girls, while Portillo, both pictured, was at the boys' school. The production also saw a buccaneering Clive Anderson. Hitherto. Jonathan Aitken, godfather to Di-ane's son, was believed to be the only dashing right-winger she would let near her balcony.

"I also offered her Lady Macduff in my Macbeth film," says Portillo. "Sadly, the jumbles failed to raise enough finance." Some say she also played Juliet to Michael's Romeo, but she slams this as "FO smears" (she has been pestering about arms to Africa), "I did play opposite Portillo — but not as his lover."





A KUWAIII prince popped into Heathrow's duty-free for a spot of therapy recently. He spent £6.500 on 49 bottles each of cognac. gin and whisky, having them wrapped in cigarette boxes — to "ease their passage" into the dry kingdom.

■ EGO overload in Piccadilly. where Richard Branson's plan for a "mega-bar" has been blocked. His "giant entertainment centre" was to join Oliver Peyton's Atlantic Bar and Marco Pierre White's Titanic in the gloomy Regent Palace Hotel. Branson hoped to set up a series of private "lounges" (oh dear) but planners might be worried about the florry of writs Peyton has issued

against other caterers on the site, claiming he is solely entitled to

trade there. BATTERED ministers moan that Sir William Macpherson of Cluny has had an easy ride from the race lobby, despite his bracing immigration record: "He was the kind of Judge," jokes a minister, "who would decide a case by and send the blighter back on the next plane." Bunkum, I'm sure.

THE dodgy general set to rule Nigeria learnt his trade from Ken Livingstone and his GLC cronies. Olusegun Obasanjo, whose "victory" has been questioned amid churlish vote-rigging claims, was chums with Illtyd Harrington. Ken's deputy during his reign in London. "He helped me with the Buddhist peace pagoda in Batter-sea," says Illtyd. "He was strangely keen to help." I trust he did not try to teach Ken about ballot-rigging.

DONNISH scenes at Magdalen. Oxford. As swells rumbled towards dinner (to mark the opening of a new auditorium) a kerfuffle broke out over a gown between Lord Jenkins of Hillhead, Chancellor, and Lord Neill of Bladen. Finally, the latter grabbed it: "Its mine! It belonged to Harold Macmillan."

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LANGE



forthcoming biography by Andrew Roberts will claim. The fashionable historian argues in an early proof that the peer was even more Machiavellian in clambering up the greasy pole. Roger Scruton agrees. "Salisbury was the most successful PM we have had because we know him," says the editor of the Salisbury Rogion "He left the Salisbury Review. "He left the country as he had found it, the ideal politician. If it required cunning and intrigue, so be it. I admire Disraeli but he hardly left the world unnoticed." Such are the perverse criteria for being a Tory

SILLY claims that the BBC is in bed with Labour take a strange turn. No sooner than Lance Price. leaves his slot as a Beeb toiler to help Alastair Campbell stamp out dissent, but Bill Bush, the BBC's election chief, jumps in beside them working in the Strategic Communications Unit. Most rum.

JASPER GERARD

'The Internet is not all listed buildings and photos of roses and Prince William — 90 per cent of Internet traffic is devoted to pornography' he cyber future is on us and if you are not online Watch them on the Web. Clip your toenails? Do it in front of a those recruits do is a secret only Richard Tyrrell the initiated know. Yaron Svo-

by now you may as well be dead. If you have no e-mail address you're a walking piece of history, as out of date as papyrus. The launch of the Pentium III is here, technology so advanced it makes jet planes look like carthorses. The latest generation of microchip processors is already causing a huge fall in the price of existing PCs. The entire national heritage — 360,000 listed buildings — is to go on the Internet. And, best of all, computers are to be free. Compaq has announced that it is seriously considering the idea; Free-PC is giving away 10.000 computers to anyone willing to use them for ten hours a week.

The Internet is simply the most powerful force in society. Business? Do it on the Web. Shares? Buy them on the Web. Books? Read them on the Web. Films?

webcam on your PC, so others can share the experience. Few indeed are the Luddite

voices speaking out against the Internet. I know of a few old novelists and poets — all over 50 — who still write their books with pen and ink (extracts can usually be read on the Web). There are many elderly people who don't know what Microsoft Explorer is. That's OK. There are plenty of Web tutorials.

But perhaps it is time to remind ourselves that all is not right with the Internet. The technology is fine, but is the public mature enough for 100 per cent access to what amounts to a free-for-all? Aren't there social issues surrounding the content of the Internet? Do we know what its effects will be?

Let us remember that the Internet is not all listed buildings

and photos of roses and Prince William. According to my Rough Guide to the Internet, 1999 edition, 90 per cent of Internet traffic is devoted to pornography.

A great many men buy PCs and worse — webcameras — primarily for sexual gratification.

Anyone who has logged on to the family zone of Microsoft NetMeeting, as I have, and found themselves chatting to somebody named "Hairy Hound" (who has sat for two hours in front of his PC in his underwear), will quickly recog-nise that the Net is the natural home of voyeurs.

It is also, far more seriously, the natural home of child pornog-raphers and extremists. Child pornographers are clever enough to stay one step ahead of the police by setting up their services in countries with poor law enforcement — Iran, or Russia. A favourite ruse is to attach their wares to legal porn sites by means of the serial link - that is, when you click on an icon your PC automatically opens up a haze of other Web sites. Among these will be the bestiality, rape, or child-abuse site. Surfers foolish enough to stray into this territory — from curiosity or rebelliousness — are likely to find themselves carrying the mental scars for a long time.

imilarly, it is simply to link to pages of political hate groups. The ideas of neo-Nazis or white supremacists look comic in the cold light of day. And they would be, were it not that these people are organised, and still finding recruits. What

ray, who wrote a book on European neo-Nazism, de-scribed how his own initiation included being guest of honour at a snuff movie and having a gun held jokingly to his head. Neo-Nazis, such as the group surrounding the sinister Fried-helm. Büsse in Germany, are guite frank about their plans to quite frank about their plans to become "respectable". To build links with established right-wing groups, to gain credibility, as the far Right has done in France. and to come out as full-blown

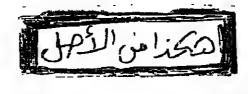
Nazis only when the time is right. With limited resources, the surest way of spreading the word is on a free, worldwide media. Seth Warshavsky, a 25-year-old porn millionaire, has claimed that the Internet is normalising porn. It may well normalise hate, too. It may normalise a lot of things that are not socially

ing onanism, and rapidly ousting the popularity of phone sex.

Most Web users are capable of leading routine, well-balanced lives (even if they do a bit of naughty surfing). It is the lonely, whose only outlet is their imagination, who are more at risk. nation, who are more at risk. In their search for the new image, the virtual friend, the fresh idea the more risqué photo, one can see the fault-lines where child pornography or political extrem-ism may find a convert. So while the Cyber Age is still

in the ascendant, let's have pause for thought. The Internet is a place of creativity but no poetry: of high ideals and low instincts. If we embrace it and praise it unquestioningly, we collude with its child abusers and haters. A great deal of work remains to be done on its dimly lit zones

comment@the-times co wh





CARE FREE

A Royal Commission of royal extravagance

bays before the general election. Tony air accused the Conservative Governnt of forcing "thousands of pensioners sell their homes to pay for long-term "Pensioners deserve better than " Mr Blair stated. A Royal Commisvas promised to recommend how the nning cost of looking after an ageing ition might be met. After over a deliberation, its 12 members could e on a way forward. Yesterday the produced proposals which, inickling the core problems, would

mmit future governments to public expenditure. Only two dissenting from these old Lats to trust the State, argued that to this complex problem lies ivate, not public, hands. The should on this occasion listen minority.

of the current system are who have been prudent e for old age, and whose £16,000, are not entitled to to pay for care in nursing or nes. As a result, every year, ensioners have to sell their Their sense of injustice is the lottery of illness:

r a patient with cancer is the NHS, while nursing , patient with Alzheimer's

ipathy and willingness to oblems is tempered by the of doing so. Already, long ne State about £7 billion a he system is changed, uish and bills will rise · growing proportion of by 2031, about one in five of will be over retirement age. conundrum, the majority of mission did indeed think the ut not in the way that the intended. Its proposal that d fund the care and social ng and residential homes payers over £6 billion by

2051. Frank Dobson, the Health Secretary, has wisely kicked this into the long grass of public debate. No amount of government spending is likely to satisfy the public's expectations of what the State should provide. Such an explosion in expenditure would do little to help the less well-off, whose care bills the State already covers, but might provoke a rise in demand for free care and deter people from taking out private insurance. If they want help with their living costs, elderly people will still be means-tested; so some might still need to sell their homes. Overall, the chances are that a future government would abolish such a scheme, unable to meet spiralling costs without hefty rises in taxation.

Fortunately, two members of the commis-sion, David Lipsey and Joel Joffe, were not tempted to follow their colleagues into this high-spending nirvana. Their minority report is predicated on the more realistic notion that the State cannot - and should not - promise to pay for all the costs of long-term care. Dissent has produced some imaginative ideas. For example, they suggest a state-sponsored scheme to enable elderly people to borrow against the value of their home to fund care. Mr Lipsey proposes that no one should have to fund their care in a residential or nursing home for more than four years, making it easier for people to save or insure for their future.

Commonsense schemes like these would create new incentives for people to take care of themselves. Yet such tinkering amounts to a nudge in the direction of the private sector, when a forceful push is required. Across Europe, governments face the same dilemma of how diminishing workforces might support the growing band of elderly people in the next millennium. The Government is right to be cool towards the majority report's solution. which would help to bankrupt the nation. But the existing unfair, antiquated system is bankrupting thousands of prudent pensioners. The ball is once more back in the Government's court to think the unthinkable.

HOPE FOR NIGERIA

clear election result but a clouded future

have been accusations of ars of independence, there n a single fair or clean igeria. But despite the European and American is clear that Olusegun former military ruler, was ting winner as the next int, even if all fraudulent inted. His victory is a rare ttion in a country that has mocracy, almost no good I is seen as one of the most world. He takes office in a Herculean challenge to African equivalent of the

e up to the task. A gruff who won distinction as a nander, he has a national t goes beyond tribal alleears of domination by the : of the few southerners who ountry. He is less popular in ba heartland than in other ia: that is a measure of his not to allow the old tradiil partiality to cloud his appointments. Three years milicising the military have

autation for decency. ate job is to keep Nigeria's eir barracks and root out e abused their position. This of the clique around Sani mer military dictator, made ough the plunder of the alth and the manipulation of xchange and import regula-

tions. They did not expect General Abdulsalami Abubakar to allow any democratic elections, still less to set in train the retribution that must now follow years of democratic and human rights abuses. Sullen and fearful, they are itching to stage a new coup. Mr Obasanjo must use all his military and moral authority to enforce his will.

The harder, longer-term job is the rebuilding of the shattered economy. Social services have collapsed, hospitals, schools and roads are crumbling, legitimate business is impossible. In one of Africa's richest countries, millions now live in poverty. Rooting out corruption is an urgent but slow job: so ingrained is the practice that few now understand how to do business or administer government cleanly. The repair of the oil industry must be a priority: but the low oil price, the environmental devastation already caused to the Delta and the sometimes well-founded suspicion against multinationals all make it harder to generate wealth from the ground.

Mr Obasanjo can count on international support: Europe and the Commonwealth should end remaining sanctions as swiftly as possible, and the rest of Africa will rally to Nigeria. Mobilising domestic support will be harder. The refusal by Olu Falae. the election loser, to accept the result is as unfortunate as it is inevitable. It could be exploited to create the very instability that would thwart the transition to civilian rule. Expectations are high — perhaps too high. Mr Obasanjo must move swiftly and sure-footedly if he is to save his country.

BRING BACK MR CHIPS

re teachers have much to add to their profession

ke a maths teacher to work uation does not balance: in Wales some 8,000 teachers seeking work in schools: ssrooms all over Britain are spe with serious shortages of comething is not adding up ich-touted education policy. ; profession has long been a rnment concern. Excessive ing hours and disruptive ntributed to a steady decline t figures. Low pay leads to m. And where unruly chilsidered a disruption on the ets. Britain's teachers have e flak. And so, in an effort to tarnished image of teaching. ient has pieced together a £130 kage of measures intended to 1 candidates to the profession. the cinema's "nobody forgets a ner" campaign which added re, a Green Paper on the future g. published at the end of last posed "golden hellos" worth science teachers and performted pay measures which would aries up from a pittance to ive rates.

et, even as government money is tempting new teachers, a jobseekvance is paid out to thousands of applicants hoping for teaching work. For mature entrants into the profession, and for those returning after a break, opportunities are surprisingly scarce. Schools find it cheaper to recruit young graduates. And older applicants may find it almost impossible to gain work at a salary commensurate with their experience.

The Government must consider ways of using earmarked funds to redress this imbalance. Chris Woodhead, the Chief Inspector of Schools, has pointed a finger at incompetent teachers suggesting that education remains "too much a lottery" because of patchy standards of teaching. Nervous young newcomers may be a cause of such unevenness. Maturer teachers often have a presence and authority which some younger recruits lack. Not only may they command more respect, but their firm grasp of a subject can lead to an inspiring confidence in imparting their knowledge. Moreover, several of these older teachers have opted for teaching as a second career. Many bring relevant experience from the fields of business and industry into the classroom. The teaching profession has long recognised a need for this. Children need to find their lessons applicable in some way to the world outside. And while Britain's schooling system continues to resist these older recruits, it is wasting one of its most precious resources.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London El 9XN Telephone 0171-782 5000

Schools and the Lawrence inquiry

From Professor Bernard Crick

Sir. Your leading article today is wise and forceful to argue against the Macpherson report's recommendation of an annual publication of school-byschool lists of "racist incidents" and ethnic (which is a better word) identifications of pupils excluded.

This would almost certainly be counter-productive and a measure, not of professional competence in difficult and delicate situations, but of the social, ethnic and religious composition of neighbourhoods.

However, the idea that the curriculum should be amended "in order better to reflect the needs of a diverse society" is not so out of line with the recommendations of the advisory group on The Teaching of Citizenship and Democracy in Schools that I had the honour to chair (1997-98), so long as ethnic relations are part of a broader programme of citizenship learning. We said, for instance,

... a main aim for the whole community should be to find or restore a sense of common citizenship that is secure enough to find a place for the plurality of nations, cultures and ethnic identifications and religions long found in the United King-

Many of our precise learning "targets" are relevant to this good purpose.

Yours sincerely, BERNARD CRICK, 8a Believue Terrace, Edinburgh EH7 4DT. February 26.

From Commander Michael Saunders Watson

Sir, The Macpherson report recommends that the national curriculum should be amended "better to reflect the needs of a diverse society". When the National Curriculum History Working Group was set up in 1989 we were instructed to put British history at the core of our recommendations and, inter alia, to address the question of what history should be taught to the ethnic minorities.

In the case of the former we took account of the histories of the four countries which make up the UK, and from which as a multicultural society it draws its strength. For instance in the area of human rights, we gave weight both to the Declaration of Arbroath in Scotland and to Magna Carta in England.

In the course of our work we visited a number of schools with pupils from many ethnic backgrounds. One, I recall, included pupils speaking over 50 national languages. Their teachers were adamant that they should be taught the history of the country of their adoption. To do otherwise would, they felt, not only be impractical but divisive.

While our recommended course of history therefore focused on Britain. we did include study units relating to areas of the world from which many of these pupils originated.

Sadly, other pressures have intervened to reduce both the content and amount of history being taught in

I trust, however, that the essential features of British history, based on a tolerant absorption of the many cultures of its people over time, will remain and in due course benefit from the invigorating effect which those from foreign shores bring to our islands. This must be the right way

Yours faithfully MICHAEL SAUNDERS WATSON (Chairman, National Curriculum History Working Group, 1988-90). Rockingham Castle. Market Harborough. Leicestershire LEI6 8TH.

From Mr Rex Walford and Ms Christine Counsell

Sir. You urge circumspection in any amendment to the national curriculum in the light of the recommendations of the Lawrence report. We

Giving all young people a thorough and enlightened understanding of our nation's multicultural past and of the diversity of the world's peoples is surely the basis of future racial harmony in Britain. Our best history and geography teachers foster wide knowledge of these issues and critical engagement with them.

If the Secretary of State for Education would give as much attention to the teaching of geography and history as he does the so-called "core" subjects (especially by supporting them, rather than marginalising them, in the key years of 14 to 16, at Key Stage 4) much could be achieved in advancing both relevant knowledge and positive attitudes in a multicultural Britain.

Yours sincerely. **REX WALFORD** (Geographer). CHRISTINE COUNSELL (Historian). School of Education, University of Cambridge. 17 Trumpington Street. Cambridge CB2 IQA. gg210@hermes.cam.ac.uk February 26.

Letters to the Editor that are intended for publication should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be sent to a fax number - 0171-782 5046. e-mail to: letters@the-times.co.uk

Debate over royalties on art works

From Mr Robert J. Waterhouse

Sir. The proposed droit de suite tax on art sales (report, February 22; leading article, February 25) — now, thankfully, put on hold by the EU (report, February 26) — would require that "art" be defined and a comprehensive system set up to monitor the sale of every "work of art", collect revenues and distribute them as appropriate.

Bearing in mind that most art has little commercial value, the cost of running a Europe-wide scheme would probably be greater than the revenue collected. No doubt the taxpayer will be expected to pay for the army of inspectors, administrators and ac-countants who would operate the scheme, presumably from some comfortable base in continental Europe.

It would be necessary for these officials to study the wills of all artists, and wills of their beneficiaries, in order to distribute the revenue cor-rectly — a colossal undertaking and yet another intrusion of officialdom into the lives of Europe's citizens.

There can be no logical basis for treating the descendants of artists differently from the descendants of anyone else. It would be no more foolish to extend the scheme to cover the descendants of artists' models. who receive a pittance. And what about people whose property is included, without any payment, in a landscape picture? Shouldn't they get something out of all this too, since it is the image of their property that is

Only the European Union could waste its time on such nonsense.

ROBERT J. WATERHOUSE. 5 Heatherbank. Chislehurst, Kent BR7 5RE. February 26.

From the Chairman of the British Copyright Council

Sir, Congratulations on including, at last, the artists' side of the case for the droit de suite (report, February 22). This royalty is long overdue (it is not a tax - since when did taxes go direct to private individuals?)

It has always been a matter of

not any veterans are ill. This is not to say that they are all suffering from psychologically-based illness, though some of them may be (and even they are still sick).

Also, the media appears to be exacerbating veterans' health more than "organophosphate exposure". A study published in last August's American Journal of Epidemiology showed how large increases in the reportage of symptoms by veterans corresponded to periods of intense media coverage.

It may be possible that veterans' legitimate illnesses have been somewhat obscured, but it may also be that we are, in some ways, simply scaring our veterans sick.

Yours faithfully HOWARD FIENBERG (Research analyst), 313 12th Street, SE Washington DC 20003. hfienberg@stats.org

An Irish champion

From Sir Humphry Wakefield

Sir. In your handsome obituary for the 19th Lord Dunsany (February 19) you write that he "probably lived most of his life in the shadow of his famous father Edward, the dramatist and short-story writer". He also lived "in the shadow of ' for did he bask in the light of?) his elegant mother, Beatrice. daughter of the Earl of Jersey.

His father's shade did not soften the desert for the then Randal Plunken's astonishing wartime crossing of the Quattara Depression, which you mention. He achieved this feat to the applause of friend and foe alike, leading to safety men of that crack Indian Cavalry regiment, the Guides.

Paternally shadowless, too, were the polo fields where he was a

Scottish parliament

From Mr Bob Cuddiny

Sir, You report (Scottish editions, February 24) that the BBC has decided against a dedicated digital/cable tele-vision feed providing full, live coverage of the Scottish parliament, in favour of selective coverage. Whom is the BBC serving in Scotland? Are services provided with a so-called metropolitan view in mind or for the Scottish licence-payers? If it is for the former then the latter can only feel cheated.

Who can say whether or not viewers would be "bored to tears". but, in any case, who says democracy was designed to provide "good" television? Will the proceedings of the Scottish parliament be any less boring than what passes for debate at Westminster? And how much relevance will Westminster's deliberations have on the everyday lives of the Scottish people?

Why not reverse the BBC's plans and show the complete proceedings of the Scottish parliament to viewers in Scotland, with proceedings at West-minster restricted to highlights?

Yours faithfully. BOB CUDDIHY. 143 Constitution Street. Edinburgh EH6 7AD.

ing 2 or 3 per cent of the resale price of a work to artists (or their heirs) will "destroy" the market, whereas the much larger commissions charged by dealers and the auctioneers (the latter to both buyers and sellers) evidently have no such effect. The spokeswoman for the Matisse estate, quoted in your report, was

puzzlement for those concerned about

artists' earnings that the British art market apparently believes that pass-

spot-on in suggesting that the British trade could only be thinking of what they themselves might lose. Yours faithfully. GERALD DWORKIN, Chairman, British Copyright Council. Copyright House, 29-33 Berners Street, WIP 4AA.

February 25. From Lord Jacobs

Sir, I wonder why our art dealers and auction houses cannot do what other business people do when faced with price competition - ie, match their competitors' prices and absorb the

cost within their own price structure. Auction houses could readily absorb, within the 10 per cent buyers' premium, a new tax of at least 2 per cent. Given the choice between lower margins or losing all their business, the former would surely be preferable.

Yours sincerely. ANTHONY JACOBS. 9 Nottingham Terrace, NWI 4QB. February 25.

From Mr Jonathan Gestetner

Sir. What about works of art which sell at auction for less than the artist's original selling price (which happens far more frequently than the reverse)? Would it not be as logical for the artist, or his estate, to participate in the next purchaser's loss as in his gain? Why should artists be rewarded on a "heads I win, tails you lose"

Yours faithfully, JONATHAN GESTETNER. Marlborough Rare Books Ltd. 144-146 New Bond Street, WIY 9FD. g@mrb-books.co.uk February 25.

Gulf War illness From Mr Howard Flenberg

Sir, We would do best to look past Colonel T. H. English's call to the British Government for an inquiry on Gulf War illness (letter, February 18). I have seen no evidence that Gulf War veterans are "allected significantly more often by disorders of unknown cause". Evidence demonstrates that some Gulf War veterans are ill. Full

The health studies published in January in The Lancet and the British Medical Journal simply bolster the conclusions of dozens of studies in Canada and the US - the great number of different symptoms and possible causes offer no evidence of an all-encompassing syndrome. Self-selected cases and self-reported symptoms rather than clinical diagnoses hamper most of the research that has pointed to a syndrome.

This is not to question whether or

champion player amongst those highgoal champions of all time in colour-tul Kiplingesque prewar India. There,

fought a famous duel with a cobra. In your columns, long ago, Bernard Levin claimed that Randal's father, the 18th Lord, had written the finest first chapter in any "English" novel, in The Curse of The Wise Woman. Had Randal been 17th and not 19th Lord, maybe the 18th Lord - a dramatist and short-story writer would have been inspired to, at very least, a most dashing biography.

Randal, as dashing ADC to the

Viceroy and an army sabre champion.

Yours faithfully. HUMPHRY WAKEFIELD. Chillingham Castle, Chillingham, Northumberland NE66 5NJ. February 24.

Genes and Genesis

From the Reverend David Gynes Sir. Just think what Monsanto and new Labour could achieve if they had the support of God (letter, February

Yours faithfully DAVID J. GYNES. 33 Neptune Road, Fareham, Hampshire POI5 6SW. February 25.

From Mr Peter R. Davies

Sir. When genetically modified people reach the gates of heaven I hope and believe that Peter will let us through. on the ground that it wasn't our fault.

Yours sincerely PETER R. DAVIES. Ashurst Piece, Cross Road, Tadworth, Surrey KT20 5ST.

From Dr Michael Handford Sir. My thought is: God had the expertise and chose not to use it.

Yours faithfully. MICHAEL HANDFORD, Millstream, The High Street. Ramsbury, Wiltshire SN8 2PA. February 25.

A bishop's place 'is in the Lords'

Sir, The general secretary of the National Secular Society, Mr K. Porteous Wood (letter, February 22). thinks there should be no bishops in a reformed House of Lords, I feel that the Government has acted in the public interest by supporting the retention of bishops for the transitional period and I am encouraged that it is looking for ways to increase representation from other Churches and religious traditions.

Parliament has to consider many ethical issues, such as the family, human sexuality, bio-ethics, the environment, education and overseas aid. which go well beyond the boundaries of political parties and on which re-ligious leaders can often make important contributions. These are likely to

increase rather than diminish. Mr Porteous Wood thinks the presence of religious leaders in the Lords is undemocratic, but by the same criterion why should the secular values he espouses have what I consider to be a disproportionate influence on public opinion — and who has elected those members of the media who often seem to trivialise religious issues and unfairly stereotype religious people? At least having some official religious representatives in the Lords will, albeit in a very small way. help to give a fairer balance. As a professed democrat, Mr Porteous Woods should be in favour of this.

Yours sincerely, JOHN WAINWRIGHT (Methodist lay preacher), 48 Borough Way, Potters Bar. Hertfordshire EN6 3HB. john@wainwright86.freeserve.co.uk February 23.

From Mr N. J. Inkley

Sir, Mr Porteous Wood makes an unjustified assumption which I be-lieve invalidates his argument. He says that "retaining the English bishops [in the Lords] disadvantages the third of the population who do not believe". It might advantage Anglicans, but it need not disadvantage anyone. The presence of good men and true can benefit ail.

NEIL INKLEY. 6 Knot Lane, Walton-le-Dale. Preston. Lancashire PR5 4BQ. February 22.

Houdini's film releases

Edwin A. Dawes

Sir, The Man from Beyond, which you report (February 25) as being Harry Houdini's "one attempt to break into films", was not the only Houdini feature film (and has, in fact. been available on video in the US for several years). He started with the serial. The Master Mystery (notable for bringing the first robot to the screen), and ended (in 1923) with Haldane of the Secret Service.

His last two films were produced by his own Houdini's Motion Picture Corporation, a venture in which he lost some \$500,000, for reasons which will be readily apparent when the restored The Man from Beyond is screened at this month's Bradford Film Festival.

Sadly, Houdini's talents as a great showman and escapologist did not translate to the screen and, despite a fascinating Niagara Falls episode in The Man from Beyond, biographer Kenneth Silverman's observation that Houndini's acting in the film provided little more animation when his character was alive then when frozen in the ice tells all.

Yours faithfully. EDWIN A DAWES (Historian, The Magic Circle), Dane Hill, 393 Beverley Road, Anlaby, East Yorkshire HUI0 7BQ, March 1.

Names and numbers

From Mr E. W. Lighton

Sir. Mr Harry Tate (letter. February 27; see also letters, February 22 and 25) tells us of the policy of the Australian State of Victoria, which allows drivers a wide personal choice of numberplate. He might have been puzzled and eventually amused, as I was, by the formation "OOO AAH" seen in Canberra last September.

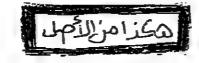
A small notice in a side window contained the legend: "It may be your daughter on the back seat."

Yours etc. E. W. LIGHTON. ll Ryebank Avenue. Crewe CWI 3SW. a 131 1755@infotrade.co.uk February 27.

From Mr Alan Dale

Sir, Suppose that the system of vehicle registration had always been such that the owner's name or initial were compulsorily incorporated into the numberplate. Imagine the status to be gained by, and the cost of, beating the system and acquiring an entirely anonymous plate consisting of meaningless letters and numbers.

Yours faithfully. ALAN DALE. Tangley Farm, Tangley, Andover. Hampshire SPII ORZ February 27.





COURT CIRCULAR

RUCKINGHAM PALACE March 1: The Queen and The Duke of Edinburgh gave a Recep-tion this evening at Buckingham Palace for the winners of The Queen's Award for Export, Technological and Environmental Achievement in 1998. The Duke of Gloucester and The Duke of Kent were present.

ST JAMES'S PALACE March I: The Prince of Wales today launched the Welsh Beef Promotion Campaign at the Celtic Manor Hotel Golf and Country Club, Newport, Gwent, **BUCKINGHAM PALACE** March 1: The Duke of York this

morning departed London Heath-row for Vietnam. Captain Neil Blair, Royal Navy. and Mr David Tuck are in

Today's royal

engagements
The Duke of Edinburgh will visit the British Equestrian Trade Association International Fair at the NEC. Birmingham, at II.I5; and, as first honorary liveryman, will attend the Engineers' Company election court meeting and dinner at the City of London Club. Old Broad Street, EC2 at 7.15.

The Princess Royal, as president Rural Housing Trust, will attend a conference at the Heritage Motor Museum, Banbury Road, Gaydon, Warwickshire, at 9.30; will officially open Arburg's new United Kingdom Headquarters at Tachbrook Park Drive, Warwick at 2.00; and as president. British Horse Society will open the BHS Rescue Centre, Stonecroft Equestrian Centre, Stonecroft Farm, Kineton Road, Oxhill, at 3.20.

Princess Alexandra will attend a dinner to mark the 30th anniversary of her patronage of the London Academy of Music and Dramatic Art. St James's Palace at 7.15.

Lecture

CSV Lord Levy, Honorary President of CSV, presided at the 10th Annual Edith Kahn Memorial Lecture delivered by Denise Platt, CBE, Chief Inspector, Social Services Inspectorate, at William Kent House, Arlington Street, SWL yesterday.

Chartered Certified Accountants

The following two names were omitted from the list of successful finalists in the Association of Chartered Certified Accountants December 1998 examination published last Friday: Wood T D; Wondhead P.

BUCKINGHAM PALACE unveiled the Noël Coward statue at

> United States of America. March I: The Princess Royal this afternoon visited Bath University Sports Training Village, Bath, Somerset, and was met on arrival by Her Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant for Somerset (Lady Gass). ST JAMES'S PALACE

the Gershwin theatre, New York,

March 1: The Duke of Kent, Colonel, this morning visited the Scots Guards Band, Wellington Barracks, London SWI.

THATCHED HOUSE LODGE March I: Princess Alexandra. President of the Friends of the V&A this evening attended a Reception in the Italian Galleries of the Victoria and Albert Museum, South Kensington, London.

Mr Ferrier Charlton

A memorial service for Mr Ferrier Charlton will be held at St Clement Danes Church on Priday, March 26, at 11.00am.

Premium Bonds The £1 million prize in the Premi-um Bond draw for March was won with bond number 76CK 562472. The winner lives in Lanca-shire and has a holding of £8,991.

School news

The Godolphin School, Salisbury The Governors of The Godolphin School are pleased to announce the following Scholarships and Awards for September 1999: Foundation Scholarship Nicole Saba, Falkner House,

NUMBE SAIDE PARTIEST HOUSE.

11- Academic Scholarships
Rachael Boder, Norman Court Laura Guy
(major scholarship). Laden Hall: Lucia
Hayes, Godolphin Prey Hannah Jackson,
Laxien Hall: Lydia Kriticos, International
School, Saudi Arabia; Iona McCall-Judson,
Codolphin Prey Alexandra Mellowish, Lad-Godolphin Prep: Alexandra McCall-Judson, en Hall: Claire Morgan, Prince's Mead; Sarah Penn, Leaden Hall li- Combined Music & Academic

Scholarships Sarah Dixon, Thorngrove; Emma Tenison (major scholarship), The Granville School. Mosic Award Alexandra Childs, Thorngrove.

13- Academic Scholarshipt Samanin, Best (major scholarshipt, Nor-man Court Georgian Clarke, Westbourne House, Laura Foundain, Chalyn, Grove, Lydia Waerman, Windlesham House. Sixth Form Enernal Scholarship Sophie Coles, Burgate School.

Reception

Glaziers' Company Mr George Cracknell, Master of the Glaziers' Company, received liverymen and their guests at a reception and supper held last night at Glaziers' Hall, after Dr Sebastian Strobl, Director of Stained Glass Conservation at Canterbury Cathedral, had delivered the annual lecture.

Memorial service

Sir William Mars-Jones
The Lord Chief Justice and the
Automey-General attended a service of thanksgiving for the life of Sir William Mars-Jones, a former High Court judge, held yesterday in Gray's Inn Chapel. The Rev Roger Holloway, Preacher, officiat-ed and Canon Eric James led the

prayers.
Mr Matthew Mars-Jones, son, mar Matthew Mars-Jones, son, read the lesson and Mr Adam Mars-Jones, son, read from Bless Our Ship by Capoun Eric Bush. His Honour Esyr Lewis, QC, gave an address. Among others present

An ackiress. Among others present were an ackiress. Among others present were are all mir Timothy Mara-Jones for and daughter-in-law). Mrs Mathew Mara-Jones is sister-in-law). Mrs Ben Johnson and other members of the family. Lord Hasson QC. and Lady Hooson. Lord Styren of Hadigathy. Lord Hasson QC. and Lady Hooson. Lord Styren of Hadigathy. Lord Williams. Lord Neill of Biaden. QC. snd Lady Williams. Lord Neill of Biaden. QC. snd Lady Williams. Lord Neill of Biaden. QC. snd Lady Williams. Lord Neill of Biaden. QC. the Treasurer of Lincoln's Irin and Lady Basenbe, Sir Tastor Wankin, VC. Str. David Croom-Johnson. Lady Glidewell. Sir Murray Sonart-Smith, Sir Anthony and Lady Evans. Sir John Roch. Sir John Mummery. Sir Malcolm PH. Sir Mark and Lady Wilson. Lady Hassin and Lady Ward, Lady Wilson. Lady Hassin and Lady Ward, Lady Wilson. Lady Hassin and Lady Vinelott, Mr Justice and Lady Jacob, Mrs Justice Elements. Mr Justice Herrichterles. Sir Romaid and Lady Waterhouse. Sir Frank and Lady White, His Honour Coinn and Mrs Steman. Judge Boal. QC. His Honour Kina Lowy. QC. and Her Honour Kina Lowy. His Honour William. Norman Francis. Judge And Goddard. QC. Mr Martin Collins. QC (Treasure Williams. Norman Hegs. QC, Mr Mr Courad Dehn. QC. and Mrs Sone. Mr Courad Dehn. QC. and Mrs Sone. Mr Courad Dehn. QC. and Mrs Beachin. Mr Bard. Professor Andrew Jokewic. QC. Dr John Roberts. QC. Mr Michael Hill. QC. and Mrs Brian Higgs. QC, Mr Mr Michael Hill. QC. Mr Andrew Williams. Mr John Corlins. QC. Mr Mr Michael Hill. QC. Mr Serard Elias. QC. Mr Penrish Harrington. QC. Mr Serard Elias. QC. Mr Penrish Harrington. QC. Mr Berny Johns. Mr Lordon. QC Geard Mrs Williams. Mr John Corlins. Mr Johns. QC. Mr Mrs Williams. Mr John C

Dinners St David's Day London Welsh

Celebration
Mr William Hague, MP, was the Mr William Hague, MP, was the guest of honour at the St David's Day London Welsh Celebration dinner held last night at the Savoy Hotel, Brigadier Rolph James presided. The Right Rev J. Ivor Rees proposed the toast to the *Immortal memory* of St David. Lord Chalfont and Sir Tasker Watkins, VC, also

Among others present were: Afforig Others present were.

Mrs Hague, Viscoum and Viscoumess.

Dilhorns, Lord and Lady Gereirs, Lord and
Lady Griffiths of Florestfach, Lord Mackey
of Ardbreckelsh, Lord Baker of Dorking,
CL, and Lady Baker, Lord Justice Pill, Lady
Watkins, the Hon Gaerror Howells, the Hon
Mrs Mari Hollowey, Sr John Cadegan,
FRS, and Lady Cadegan, Ser Maldwyn and
Lady Thomes, Sir Philips and Lady Jones, Sr
David and Lady Nicholas, Sir Alan and
Lady Thomes, Mr Justice and Lady Thomas
and Judge and Mrs David Griffiths.

Afternacum Achenacum

Professor Sir Bernard Crossiand, FRS, was the speaker at a talk dinner held last night at the Athenaeum, Mr J.D. Rimington was in the chair.



Silbersee) from April 1. Mr Bremner and Broombill Opera, which is putting on the opera, have a month to transform Wilton's, London's oldest surviving music hall, from being semi-derelict into London's newest opera house. Wilton's was saved from demolition in 1964 by Lord Olivier, Sir John Betjeman and others

Anniversaries

BIRTHS: Robert II, King of Scotland 1371-90, Paisley, 1316; Sir Thomas Bodley, founder of the Bodleian Library in Oxford, Exeter, 1545; Samuel Houston, soldier, Ist President of the Republic of Texas 1836-38 and 1841-44, Rockbridge Court, Virginia, 1793; Bedrich Smetana, composer, Litomyel, Czechoslovalda, 1824; Kurt Weill, composer, Dessau, Germany, 1900; Karen Carpenter, singer, New Haven, Connecticut, 1980. DEATHS: Girolamo Frescobaldi, organist and composer. Rome, 1644; John Wesley, founder of the Methodist Church, London, 1791;

Horace Walpole, novelist and

historian, Twickenham, 1797: Howard Carter, archaeologist, discoverer of the tomb of Tutankha-mun (1922). London, 1939; Azorin (José Martínez Ruiz), novelist, Madrid, 1967.

An assessination attempt was made on Queen Victoria by Robert Madean at Windsor, 1882. Captain James Gallagher and his 13-man US Air Force crew completed the first round-the-world nonstop flight in 94 hours, 1949. The British Commonwea Trans-Antarctic expedition, led by

Sir Vivian Puchs, completed the crossing, 1958. Rhodesia broke away from the Commonwealth and became a republic under Ian Smith, 1970.

Fan Makers'

Company The following have been elected officers of the Pan Makers Company for the ensuing year: Master, Mr M.H. Davis; Pree Warden, Mr R.M. Freeman; For-eign Warden, Mr R.I. Simpson.

Appointments Mr Charles Peter Lawford Openshaw, QC, to be Senior Circuit Judge at Preston Combined Court Centre in succession to Judge Lockett, who has retired.

Miss Christine Fellner, barrister, to be a full-time Social Security and Child Support Commissioner.

Forthcoming marriages

Mr J.D. Fletcher and Miss V.C. Coley The engagement is announced between Justin, twin son of Mr and Mrs Nick Fletcher, of Weston Lullingfields. Shropshire, and Lullingfields. Shropshire, and Victoria, daughter of Mr and Mrs Mark Coley, of Brinkley, Suffolk.

Mr A. Isherwood and Miss K.M. Knopp The engagement is announced between Andrew, son of Mr and Mrs Geoffrey Isherwood, of Edgworth Lancashire, and Kristina Maria, younger daughter of Mr and Mrs Frederick Knopp, of Bournemouth, Dorset.

Mr CJA. Jones and Miss J. Storer The engagement is announced between Christopher John Andrew, only son of Mr and Mrs John Jones, of Broadclyst, Exeter, and Jacqueime, elder daughter of Mr Frank Storer, AE, and Mrs Storer, of Peacchaven, East Sussex.

Mr C.I. Ley and Miss H.M. Nicholls The engagement is announced between Christopher, son of Sir Isn Ley, Bt, and Lady Ley, of Fauld Hall, Staffordshire, and Henrietta, younger daughter of Mr and Mrs David Nicholls, of Manningtree, Esser. and Miss R.J. Wigley
The engagement is announced
between Frederick, younger son of
Mr Christopher (Kin) Price and the late Mrs Price, of Morton Bagot, Warwickshire, and Rebecca, elder ghter of Mr and Mrs Islwyn Wigley, of Radyr, Cardiff.

€,

Mr F.H.C. Price

Mr C.C. Nicholson and Miss E.L. Laidler The engagement is announced between Charles, son of Mr and Mrs Iain Nicholson, of Stamfordham, Northumberland, and Emms, daughter of the Reverend and Mrs David Laidler,

of Exeter, Devon. Mr B.E. Savill and Miss A. Shepherd The engagement is announced between Ben, son of Mr and Mrs Henry Savill, of Stanford Rivers. Essex, and Abbe, daughter of Mr and Mrs Max Shepherd, of Kew.

Mr S.S. West and Miss L.G. Bucknall The engagement is announced between Sean, eldest son of Mr and Mrs T.G. West, of Sunburyon-Thames, and Letitia, daughter of Mr and Mrs P.G.A. Bucknall. o Hampson, Middlesex,

Birthdays today

Miss Pat Arrowsmith, pacifist, 69; Miss Margaret Barbieri, ballerina, 52; Mr Harry Blech, violinist and conductor, 89; Lady Moyra Browne, former superintendent-in-chief, St John Ambulance Brigade, 81; Sir Leonard Crossland, former chairman, Rurd Motor Company, St. Lord Elton, 69; Professor Michael J.G. Parthing, former Dean, St Bartholomew's and the Royal London School of Medicine and Dentistry, 51; Mr John Gardner, composer, 82; Lady Gass, Lord-Lieutenant of Somerset, 59; Mr Milkhail Gorbachev, former President of the Soviet Union, 68; Captain Sir Donald Gosling, RNR, joint chairman, CPI, 70; Mr R.E. Groves, former chairman, Mayer International, 79; Lord Howie of Troon, 75; Cardinal Basil Hume, Cardinal Archhishop of Westminster, 76; Dame Naomi James, author and yachtswoman, St. Mr Robert Lloyd, opera singer, 59; Mr Peter Longman, director, Theatres Trust, S3; Sir John Man-duell, composer, 71; Mr Hugh Morro, Headmaster, Clifton College, 49; Mr Lou Reed, rock singer, 56; Lieutenam-General Sir Robert Richardson, 70; Mr John Tusa, former managing director, BBC World Service, 63; Mr J.P.R. Williams, former rugby player and orthopaedic surgeon, 50; Mr Ian Woosnam, golfer, 41.

New Ambassador Dr Peter January to be Ambassador to Albania from April, in succession to Mr Supplem Nash who will be moving to a new Diplomatic Service appointment.

The Institute of **Indirect Taxation**

1998 Associateship Examination

The Institute of Indirect Taxation amounce that the following candidates were successful in the Associate Examinations which took place on December 8 and 9, 1998:

Awards
The Presidents Prize (sponsored by CCH) for the best overall performance: Vaunessa Rush
The IIT Prize for the best performance in Paper I: Elaine Cox
The Batterworths de Voll Prize for the best performance in Paper II: David Debyer
The CCH Prize for the best performance in Paper III: Vannessa Rush
Pant Lig
Cox. Blaine: Crichley, Bernard; Cross, Fronce, Desyer, David: Kawanagh, Nick: Mannering, Nicola; McGregor, Alda: Offer, Kevin; Reynolds, Sarah; Rush, Vannessa: Skidzager, Mel.

Cornwall Lieutenancy

The following have been appointed Deputy Lieutenants of Cornwall: Professor Alan Livingston, Mrs Margaret Horrell, Mrs Gloria Alsey, Mrs Jill Morison, Rear-Admiral Sir Robert Woodard, Sir John Banham, Mr Peter Fittger-

Luncheon

Farmers' Company Mr Christopher Pertwee, Master of the Farmers' Company, presided at a court and livery luncheon held yesterday at Farmers' Fletchers' Hall. The Master of the Poulters' Company and the Director-General of the Institute of Directors were among the guests.

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After this I beard what accorded like the roar of a large crowd of people in heaven, saying, "Praise God! Salvation, glory, and power belong to our God!" Revelation 191 (GNB)

BIRTHS

ANDERSEY - On February 18th at The Portland Hospital, to Jeanette and Jan-Erik, a son, Feitz Erik, a brother for Maud, Niklas and Patrik.

BEARD - On 1st March 1999 in Amman, Jordan to Sally (née Cameron) and Nick, a daughter, Katherine Elizabeth Wales, a sister for Edward.

BIRCKLEY - On Thursday
18th February to
Christopher and Elizabeth
(née Pick), a beautifui
daughter, Jessica Sophie. Strikell - On February
25th at The Portland
Hospital, to Genma (nes
Pozo) and Andy, a
daughter, Georgina
Sophie, a sister for Emily. BURRIDGE - On February

27th in Singapore, to Susan (use Barradell) and Richard, a daughter, Lucy Charlotte. CAMPSELL - On February 27th 1999, to Graeme and Trishs (née Lord), a beautiful first child,

CERVENY - Katherine Grace at The Portland Respital, to Gretchen, Frank and Ches. Wednesday 24th February 8lbs 11oz 5.57pm.

DAVES - On Fairmary 18th 1999, to Caroline (née Berry) and Mark, a son, William Pike, a brother for Tom, Ben and Allie. de VELIERS - On 27th February 1999, to Eispeth (née Young) and Matthew, a sou, Henry John Matthew.

DYE - On February 23rd at The Portland Hospital, to Tana and William, a son, Andrew Palmer. Rendew Fainer.

Friolary - On February 18th
1999 to Sara (née Edwards)
and Scott, a son and
daughter, Jack Fargus and
laabella Kate, a brother
and sister for Sam.

HAKCHI - On 19th February, at The Portland Hospital, to Michaelle (née Gooding) and Hassan, a ton Adonis. A joy to our world. Hill. - On February 28th in Brisbane, Amstralia, to Amanda (nés Lock) and Harry, a daughter.

JENSEN - On February 28th at The Portland Hospital, to Fat (use Bennick) and Paul, a son, Benjamin Joseph, a brother to Isabel. kitches – On Pebruary 17th 1999, to Claire (nee Griffiths) and Andrew, a son, Harvey James. to Elizabeth (nee Miles) and Paul, a daughter, Marina Lucy Mary, a eister for Francis and Gsy. OLIVER - On Wednesday February 10th 1999 to Karine (née Hudson) an Richard, a son, James Pobert Gree

RENTON/BURNETT - On February 23rd at The Fortland Hempital, to Alex and Ruth, a son, Adam Augustus Hurasti Renton.

SHEFFELD - On Pebruary 25th at The Portland Hospital Jim and Lisa valcomed Nosh, a broth for staters Natalia and Annick.

in Northampton, to Stephanie (née Jones) and David, a beautiful daughter, Felicity Amber Elirabeth.

tel: (01903) 787188.

BARBER - Suddenly whilst on helidsy in Italy on 18th February 1999, Michael Peter aged 43 of Chobham, Surrey, Dearly beloved husband of Annette, adored father of Daniel, Natalie and Melissa. Funeral Service at Chobham St. Lawrance Church on Wednesday 3rd March 1999 at 12.30 pm. Family flowers mly. Donations if desired the Save the Children Fund.

Enquiries Woking Funeral Services, (01483) 772266.

DEATHS

SHAW - On February 27th 1998, to Cathy (née Tiller) and Matthew, twin sons, Gregory William and Robert Cavendish.

SHEH - On February 25th at The Portland Hospital, to Susam (née Pugaley) and Jonathan, a son, Charles Cameron Crossland.

SMPSON - On February 25th at The Portland Hospital, to Juliet (née Edwards) and Jamie, a son, Luke Cheries, a brother for Daniel. STIRTEMS - On February 25th, to Catherine (née Knowelden) and Jeff, a daughter, Ellen Alice.

TYDEMAN - On Tuesday 23rd February at Queen Charlotte's Hospital, to Victoria (née Hodgaon) and Mark, a son, Wilson - On February 21st in Northsupton, to

WRIGLEY - On February 24th at The Portland Hospital, to Diana (née Bennett) and Jed, a daughter, Jessica, a sister for Edmund.

DEATHS

BAREY - Suddenly on 26th
February Reginald
Bertram, CBE, aged 82
yeara. Rushand of the late
Phyllis, much loved by his
dauginer and son. Angels
and Geoffivy, and his five
grandchildren. Funeral
Service and committal at
St Mary's Church. East
Preston, 9th March 11 am.
Family flowers, donations
to British Heart
Foundation, c'o B.D.
Tribe, 65 See Lans,
Rustington, West Sumer,
tel: (01903) 787188.
BARBER - Suddenly whilst

SERRERS - Victor, on 28th February after a short illness, such missed by his family, friends and godchildren. Funeral at 12 noon, as Wednesday 3rd March at Golders Green Crematorius, Hoop Lane.

ERTHAJ - Abol Hassan on February 24th peacefully at home aged 93, Beloved busband of Azar and father of Elahe, Shahrzad, Davar and Alireza. Funeral on Friday 5th March at 11.30 am Hampstead Comptery followed by a memorial reception from 5 pm-5 pm at 5 Cumberland House, Kemington Road, London W8.

ECCLES - The Viscount
David McAdam, aged 94,
on 24th February at Four
Cake Farm, New Jersey,
USA the home of his
loving wife, The
Viscountess Mary Hyde
Eccles. A service of
remembrance will be beld
at St Luke's Church,
Gladstone, New Jersey or
6th March, Arrangements
for services to be held in
England will be
announced later.

BRDAD - (Audrey) Joss, fermerty of Dudley and Tsunton, peacefully at Dorchester Muraing Home on 26th February 1998 aged 36 years. Widow of Eric, devoted mother to Susan, mother-in-law to Kevin Rogers and loving Grandma to Eleaner and David. Service of Thanksgiving at Tsunton Denne Crematorium on Friday 5th March at 10.30am. No mourning clothes please. Family flowers only, Donations gratefully accepted for the Abhelmers Disease Seciety 4/2 Greenby Funeral Service, 15 Princes Street, Dorchester, Dorset.

CARACCHAEL - Peter
Oliphani, on Thursday
February 25th 1999, peacesfully at home, at last
united with his beloved
Pamela. Father of Raiph,
Alastair, Malcohn and
Madeleine, and loving
grandfather. Private
inperal. Thanksgiving
Service on Friday March
ith at 3.30 pm in St Anneys
Episcopal Church, Couper,
Angus, Flowers to the
church or donations to the
Sist Highland Brigade
Welfare Fund, Highland
House, 3 St Leonards
Bank, Perth. PH2 3EB.

EDAGEDSTON - James
Douglas OBE,
marpectedly and
peacefully at home on 27th
February 1999 aged 77.
Adored and much
respected humbend, father
and grandfathes.
Ingehjörg, Caroline,
Joenna, Harriet, Mark and
Javed. A man of principles,
intellect and wit. Funeral
for Ismily and close
friends. Degations in lieu
of flowwa to Hereford
Branch of the Cuta'
Protection Leagus, via Protection League, via Dawe Brothers, Hereford

ESSERY - On 26th February
1999, The Reverend Canon
Eric died at the Royal
Berkshire Hospital.
Funeral Eucharist at
Christ Church, Reading on
Tuesday 9th March at
11,00am, Flowers welcome,
or donations to The Eric
Emery Hemorial Fund
may be sent to A.B. Wallor
& Son Ltd, 36 Eldon Road,
Reading RG1 4DL.

PERBUSSON - Anne Mary aged 30 peacafully at home after a long illness. Much loved sixter of Susan and sunt of Andrew and David. Funeral at Putney Vale at 2.30 pm 4th March. Family flowers only. Enquiries to Andrew Marz, 23A Nevem Square, SWS 9PD, 40171) 373-0583. Donations to Cancer Research.

FINN - John David, died pascafally en 25th February, 1999 at Salisbury Hospica, aged 62 years Dearly loved husband of Carols and the late Daphne. Much loved father of Susan, Judith, Catherine and Feter and Sophie and Roger. A very dear granded. Funeral Service on Friday, 5th March 1999 at 12 noon at Fordingbridge United Reformed Church, Fordingbridge United Reformed Church, Fordingbridge No flowers please but donations if desired for Ataxia or Salisbury Hospice Care Trust Co LN. Newman Ltd., Griffin Mews, 22 High Street, Fordingbridge SP6 1AX.

PORRESTER - R.A.C. Reggie'.
Husband of the late Joan,
father of Charlotte and
grandisther of Cutherine
and James. Passed sway
peacefully at home on
Friday February 25th 1998,
aged 91. Private cremation.
A Memorial Service will
be held at a later date.

GAWLE - James, mathematicien, late of Ministry of Defence suddenly on 5th February 1999 at his home in Dingwall, Ross-shire, Scotland aged 83 years.

GREERT - Joan Enid
posecially in Horsford
Nursing Home on 25th
February, sged 90,
jonnerly of Aylaham and
Enfield, Widow of Frank.
Proud aunt, great aunt,
and great great aunt,
and great service to be held
on Friday 3th March,
3.30pm at 5t Michael's
Church, Aylaham Funity
flowers only, donations if
desired for 5t Michael's
Church, Aylaham c/o
Duckers Funeral Service,
23 White Hart Street,
Aylaham, Norfelk, NEI1
6EG.

GREEN - Samuel (Thm) agad
78. On 24th February after
a short filiness. Deeply
loved and loving husband
and beloved companion of
Buddy. Much loved
brother, uncle and friend.
Funeral Service at St
Nicholas' Church, Manor
Park Roed, Chiatchurst at
11.30 am Monday 8th
March followed by a
private crumation. No
flowers by request but
donations may be made to
St Christopher's Bospice
through Francis Chappell
& Sons, 221 High Street,
Bremley, BR1 INZ.

HARRITON - R.G. Wallace peacefully at home on 31st February 1999 after a long illness, formerly of Giffnock, Lendon and Bearden, Lendon and Bearden, Lendon and feunder member of Young Minds, the Children's Mental Health Charity. Dear brother of the late Margie Ringhorm of Tunbridge Walls and of Jean Cameron, a much loved muche of David, Floma, June, Jennifer and the late Andrew. The private funeral has taken place.

HARRSCH - On 23rd
February peacefully at
Exmouth House, Florence
aged 37. Funital Service
will be at Exeter and
Devon Crematorium on
Priday 5th March at
2.30ms. Floral tributes or
donations in lies if desired
to Guide Dogs for the
Billed c/o Crew & Son,
Tower Street, Exmouth,
Devon.

HARRIES - Beall, Charles
OBE. Died peacedully and
with great dignity after a
short filmes and a vallent
fight at Colchester
Houpital on Eigh February.
Husband of Nancy, he left
two children, Christiane
and David, from an earlier
marriage to Rose Marie.
He is deeply loved and will
be greatly missed by
family and friends allke.
He devoted his life in
service to the Crown
variously serving in the
Eoyal Navy during the
War and subsequently as
a Senize Diplomat for
HMG. Requiem Mass at
The Church of Our Lady
& St John, Sodbury,
Sulfelk at 1 pen Thursday
4th March followed by
interment at All Saints
Church, Newton Green.
Family Howers only
please, but dopartions if
desired to CAFOD, All
cuite of Funeral Directors
Brown Fann & Parker.

care of Funeral Directors Brown Fenn & Parker, Sudbury, Suffolk 01787 370909. 370909.

HEMANNO - Normen
Margaret on 27th February
1895 pescatully at home
aged 82 years after a
courageous fight against
cancer. Beloved wife of the
late William (Bill)
Hemming, adored mother
of See and grandmother of
Robert and Rosy. Sadly
missed by her family and
samy irlands. Funeral
Service at St Mark's
Chapel, Eastern Road,
Brighton on Setarday 6th
March at 11 am, followed
by a private cremation.
Family flowers only please
or densitions if desired to
The Marches Hospice may
be sent c/e Regentey
Funeral Service. 25
College Place, Brighton.

HOLDER - Eisem Flora
Holder (née Lloyd), dearly
beloved mother of
Godfrey, irm and Keith,
and of Pat, Joseyla and
Berbara, grandmether to
Katherine, Jennifer.
Servan, Wendy, Helen,
Heather and Sandra and
great grandmether to
Alice, deer sister of Hingh,
left for her beavanty abode
very pecacitulty on Sunday
February 28th, Much loved
by all her femily and
friends she is now at peace
with her beloved Rogar
and will be in our hearts
forever. Funeral service
from St Annes Scotish
Espiscopal Church,
Strettherffer en Friday
March 5th, at 1 p.m.
thereafter interment at
Fodderty Buriel Ground.

To place death notices, acknowledgements or notices please call 0171 680 6880

HOWELL - John died en
Pabruary 25th 1998 after
a long illness borne with
fortitude and humour.
Desty loved husband of
D'Arcy, their two children
Arabelle and Georgina
and grandchildren Hecter
and Tablitis. The funeral
service takes piece at St
John's Church, Copthorne,
on Tuesday 9th March at
2 pm, followed by a
committed at the Survey
and Sussess Cramsborium
at 3 pm, Fundy Howers
only but donations if
desired to Canous'
Research u/o Alext Jones
Funeral Directors.
Lingfield, (01342) 832534.

KBMSLEY - Lionel. 2nd
Viscount, died pescetully
after a short illness on 28th
February 1999 at Leicester
in his 90th year. Beloved
hunhand of Halen, much
loved Isther of Mary Anne,
Iane, Caroline and Ketle.
Devoted grandfather and
great-grandfather and
great-grandfather
for programfather
for his 1250 year Friday.
5th March et all Saints
Church, Lubenham, Luice.
Family Rowers only.
Dountions if desired to
Council of St John for
Leicestenhire. Enquiries
and douations to
Adhinsons, Funeral
Directors, 12 London
Road, Ondby, LE2 5DG.
Tel: 9118 271 2342.

LAWRENCE - Martin S.T.A.
Lewrence MA, BM, Bch
(Oxford 1971), FRCP,
FRCGP. Boyn 12.12.1943,
died pessectilly at home on
37th February 1989. G.P.
In Chipping Norton,
University Lecturer in
Ceneral Practice and
Fellow of Grean Collage
Oxford Deeply loving and
belowed of Annetta, Anna
Joda. He will be sadly
missed by his relatives,
iriends, colleagues,
patients and students, in
this country and abroad.
Funeral service at St.
Kanelm's Church Enstone,
Illuratiny 4th March at
2pm, followed by private
cremation, Donations
please in his memory for.
LC.E.F. at Churchill
Hospital Oxford, Marie
Curie Nurses, Katharine
Home Hospica Trust or
The War Memorial
Hospital Chipping Norton
ofo Sole & Son, Bidston
Close, Over Norton OX7
SPP.

IUCK - Elien Georgina (nde Radding). Pescafully in her steep on March let, beloved wife of the inte Gilbert Luck, dearly loved and loving mether of Gny, deveted grandmother to James and Nicholas. Funeral to be held at the lale of Wight Crematorium on Friday, March 5th at Spm. Pamily flowers only, donations if dealred to LW. Macmilian Nurse Appeal, c'o R & P Everson, The Broadway, Totland, LW.

(refd) died on 28th
February 1999. He fought
with humour and courage:
Funeral on 3rd March.
11.30sm, St Ommunds
Romen Catholic Church,
Exeter Street, Salisbury
No flowers please.
Denations to Salisbury
Hospico Care Trust,
Salisbury Hospica,
Salisbury District
Hospical.

MAURSCE - Phyliis, HMI
Education 1950 - 1970.

Hospital.

MAUFICE - Phyilia, HMI
Education 1950 - 1970.
died 20th Pebruary 1989.
Her Chief Impector of the time said of her work 7 do not know of any infant school in the country which did not look forward to her visit and feel better for her presence in their school. The transactions exchool. The transactions estated will take piece at Barrow.
Bury St Edmunds, Suffolk at 2pm on 9th March followed by the Committed the the Crematorium.
Risby.

MAXMEL - Dr. John (formerly of Liverpool) suddenly in hospital 55th February. Dear husband of Sybli and devoted father of Anthony, Rikki and Andrew. Cremation took place in March.
Donations if desired to Royal National Lifeboat Institute.

MITCHELLHEGGS - Maurice
M.A. (Oxon) aged 91.
(Berrister at Law) on
February 28th. Beloved
husband of late Elizabeth
and Wendy. Proud father
of Authony, Christopher
and Caroline, grandfather,
dearly loved and sadly
minsed. Service at St
Marys Church,
Twickenham on
Wednesday March 10th at
11.45am Engulries to F.W.
Paine Twickenham, Tel MITCHELLHEGGS - Maurice

MODIANO - Ignacio died suddenly in Chile on 27th February whilst swimming, beloved husband of Natalia Fetherston-Dilke and father of three dear little-boys, Oscar, Lucas and Bruno. MOREY-KYRLE - Andley
Francks on February 28th
in Wittshire aged 73.
Survived by his brothers
Ernie, Roger and John and
by his sons Julian and
Nicholas. Funeral on
Priday March 5th at 52.
Andrew's Church,
Heddington, user Caine,
Wittshire at 2 pm.
Enquiries: Wootten and
Son F/D, 61249 812258.

ORPEN - Dorothy pescefully on February 25th 1999 aged 53 years. Widow of Arthur Willier, beloved mother, grandmother and great-grandmother. Service at 54 Lule's Church, Milland, March 5th at 3 pm.

amounced.

RESTURE - On 20th.

Pebruary, Audrey Helen
(née Bettley) of Stock,
Esex, durling wife of Dr
Frank Ristone and
beloved mother of
Berenice and Adrian.
Creanation 11.45 am
Cheimaford Crematorium,
ismily only. Memorial
service 3.20 pm, Methodist
Church, Western Road,
Billericzy, Monday March
8th. No flowers. Donations
to Macmillan Nurses c/o
Fertrers. High Street

Farters, High Street,
Billericay.
SMIN-On Zith February
1999, Madeleine Lovedy,
sped 59, pecatually at
Hallivell Nursing Home,
Tunbridge Walls. Greatly
missed by all her relatives
and friends. Service to
take place at Holy Trinity
Church, Hutus Green on
Wednesday 10th March at
10.45 am, followed by
cremation. Family flowers
only. Donations if desired
to Serv the Children Fund
c/o C Waterhouse & Sons,
High Street, Burwash, E
Bx. Tel: (01435) 882219.
SOUTH-(mée Benwell).

So. Tel: (01485) 882219.

SOUTH - (née Benwell),
Winifred Mabel "Mabe"
formerly of Farnborough
died peacefully in her
along on 22rd February
1999 in her 90th year.
Widow of Harold L/
RADC, mother of Jenny,
Richard and Marcin.
Funeral at Easthampstead
Park Crematorium at
2.00pm on Monday 8th
March. Family Howers
only. Donations if desired
to Alzheimers Diesese
Society, c/o and enquiries
to Funeral Services,
(Petrafield) Ltd., 19 The.
Square, Peterafield, Hants
GU32. JHR. 01780. 262 711.

EPURI SEC - Citye Jamos, ex-SPURING - Cive James, ex-Rhodesia / late of Bovey Tracey, Devon. Died 27th February 1999 in Bentry, Ireland. Funeral on 2nd March, 2.00pm at Bentry Catholic Church.

Fatters, High Street, Billericay

Catholic Church.

TAPP - Robert John on
February 27th peacefully
after a short Illness borne
with great courage.
Beloved bushand of Ann,
loving father to Nicholas
and Andrew and
grandfather to Claudia,
Cocily, Bugo and Sophia,
Funeral Service at 10.45em
on Friday March 5th at 5t
Nicholas at-Wade, Kent,
Family Rowers Denations
to Macmillan Cameer
Retief or 5t Nicholas atWade Church c/o W.S.
Cols, Moulton C712 4JQ,
(01843) 821253.

TEIMAN - Marjorie Hessell (nós Hand) peacefully at house in Susses on 26th February aged 98. Widow of Hugh, greatly loved by her family and her many friends. Funeral at 12 noon on Thursday 4th March at St Mary's Church, Pulborough, followed by private cremation. Family flowers only but donations may be sent to St Mary's Church, Pulborough.

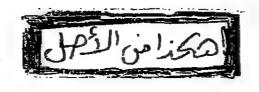
VAN DEN BOSCH-Raiph
William, Husband of
Marjorie, father of John,
Christine Hinchilife, Paul
and Authony and
grandfather of ten
children, died at his home
on February 27th. Funeral
will take piace at Sf
Thomas More R.C. Church
in Bramley at 2.30 pm on
March 5th. No flowers but
donations to ORBIS and
CAPOD please.

VERSION HARCOURT - Col.
William RD ORE
peacefully in hospital.
Much loved husband of
Nancy, father of Anne and
Tony, grandfather Service
of Thanksgiving at All
Saints Church, Demmend,
1 pap Monday Sth March.
Family flowers only,
Donations if desired to
Army Benevolent Fund c/o
J. Edwards, 13 St Georges
Walk, Waterlooville, PO7
7TII, tel: (01705) 262194.

WARMER - Commodere
William Eiden RD, CBE.
First Master of SS Queen.
Ellimbeth 2 and last
surviving Captain of
Queen Mary and Queen
Ellimbeth, passed away
passedully at Vinginia
Water on Saturday
morning. 27th February
Funeral will be held at
Hanwerth Crematorium at
2.15 pm on Monday 8th
March.

WHETHERLY - On Friday
26th February, Robin
Christopher Philip, aged
51, very peacefully, much
loved father of Nicholas
and Marina, Funeral on
Friday, 5th Merch, at St
George's Church,
Ogbourne St George, near
Mariborough at 11 o'clock,
Enquiries to Chainse
Funeral Directors 0171 252
0008.

WELIAMS - John Iorworth.
On Friday 28th February,
peacefully, in his 88th
year, devoted husband of
the inte Lilly, much loved
father of Peter and Ned
and daughters-in-lew
Shells and Triebs,
grandfather of Jon, Tim
and Sophie, and greatgrandfather of Claudia,
Miranda and George. All
chaputies to David Davise
& Sons, Oawestry (1891
853116. No flowers please,
but donations, it desired.
to Hope House Children's
Hospics Oswestry.



AIR COMMODORE FREDERICK RAINSFORD



Rainsford, CBE, DFC, bomber pilot and diplomat, died on February 13 aged 89. He was born on December 12, 1909,

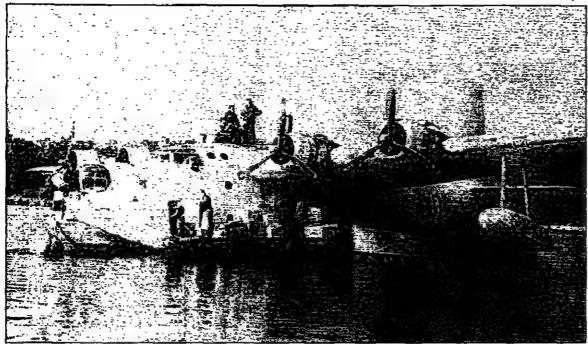
fter spending part of the war endeavouring to destroy Berlin as a bomber pilot, Frederick Rainsford found himself playing a central role in preventing the inhabitants of the beleaguered city from starving in 1948-49. The remarkable Berlin Airlift came about when, in June 1948, the Soviet Union reneged on the postwar Four Power Agreement for the administration of the city and blockaded all land routes into it. Since Berlin lay so deep inside the Soviet zone of occupation, the intention — to lay exclusive hands on Germany's capital - was evident,

Rainsford, as senior staff officer in the Air Ministry, played a pivotal role In organising the British end of what became a substantially Anglo-American air bridge into Berlin. It was an operation which from small begin-nings fed Berliners, heated their homes and kept the city's industries going for almost a year, until the Russians relented and normal routes to the city were opened again. Implementation of the alternative at first suggested by the Americans - an armed land convoy would almost certainly have led to a head-on clash with the Russians and

possibly to a third world war. Frederick Fitzpatrick Rainsford was an Irishman, born the son of a Royal Irish Constabulary officer at Castlebar. Co Mayo. He was educated at Campbell College, from where he went as a pupil farmer to Kenya. In the early 1930s he returned to Northern Ireland. where in 1935 he took a degree in agriculture at Queen's University. Belfast. While at university he learnt to fly with an RAF Special Reserve Squadron and was given a commission in 1936. For the next few years he

gained experience in bombers. When war broke out he was serving with 215 Squadron in Cambridgeshire and was thereafter on training duties for more than a year. His war really began when he was sent, early in 1941.

DEATHS



A Sunderland flying boat delivers precious supplies to Lake Havel during the Berlin Airlift

to North Africa to take command of No 148, a Wellington squadron based on the Suez Canal.

As part of what was styled the Heavy Bomber Force (though the Wellington was really only a medium bomber) 148 regularly raided the harbour of Italianoccupied Benghazi, in what was known as the "Mail Run". The knack, as Rainsford later said, was to hit the harbour without damaging "Mae West", as the protuberant twin domes of the city's cathedral were known. When the Germans poured down through Greece, 148 Squadron added targets in the islands and on the Greek mainland to its list, and it also attacked the Vichy French in Lebanon.

Back in England, after further spells of training and a staff course, Rainsford was posted early in 1943 to the staff of 3 Group in Cambridgeshire, and spent the next six months planning raids on Berlin, the Ruhr and Nuremberg. In May that year he was given command of No 115, a Lancaster Squadron, and was soon in the thick of the Battle of the Ruhr which was then in full swing as Bomber Command tried to take the war to Germany's industrial heartland.

During a raid on Krefeld he had the disconcerning experience of having a 4,000lb bomb "hang up" on him, resisting the most desperate attempts of all his crewmen in turn to chop it clear of the bomb bay with the aircraft's axe. Rainsford gave his crew the option of baling out over England rather than participate in an attempted landing with such a lethal cargo, but to a man they chose to stay. While all on board, and in the control tower at 115's base at East-Wretham, Norfolk, held their breath. Rainsford pulled off one of his most silken touchdowns, in July

1943 he and his squadron took part in the Battle of Hamburg, witnessing the firestorm which devastated the city. In the following month he and 115 were in the attack which wrecked the V2 testing site at Peenemunde on the Baltic Sea. He was awarded his DFC that autumn.

After this second tour of operations Rainsford spent the rest of the war on the staff and in training posts. In 1946 he briefly became a civil servant, but he was shortly afterwards offered a permanent commission which he glad-

One of his most important jobs in the Air Transport Department, to which he was posted in 1947 as deputy director of operations, was to organise what was known as the Trunk Route to Singapore. In those days before longrange jet transport shrank it to less than 12 hours, the distance represented a five-day haul, and the maintenance of effective facilities along the route was vital for the supply and, in emergency, the reinforcement of bases in the Far East. The experience of honing such an operation to perfection was to stand Rainsford in good stead when a supply crisis of a very different sort was to burst on him closer to

When the Berlin crisis broke he was No 2 to Air Commodore David Atcheriey, the Director of Air Support and Transport Operations. But Atcherley was almost immediately posted away to command the Central Fighter Establishment, and Rainsford assumed sole responsibility for the British airlift.

At first it looked a hopeless task. But with a motley collection of aircraft both military and civil pressed into service, the daily tonnage leapt up: from 400

RENTALS

ICEN \$47 kg (tot lot floor bedal

tons a day on July 3, 1948, to 750 tons a day by July 7, and so on up to an eventual total of 4,000 tons a day. An aircraft took off or landed at RAF Gatow in the British sector of Berlin every 90 seconds, carrying food, fuel and light machinery, and these were supplemented by Sunderland flying boats, which came in from Hamburg and put down on Lake Havel, bringing cargoes of coal.

Rainsford had to battle not only with logistics, but with the Treasury, which cavilled at the expense of chartering vast numbers of civil aircraft to supplement the RAFs transports. Rainsford told its officials that the avoidance of a world war was his first priority and that the cost of that would have to be worked out afterwards. Indeed, the British and Americans were prepared for an indefinite operation. And then, suddenly, in the summer of 1949 it was all over. The Russians gave up and lifted the blockade as precipitately as they had imposed it. Rainsford was appointed CBE for the part he had played.

His subsequent postings included a spell as Air Attaché at the Athens Embassy, 1957-60, and he retired from the RAF in 1962. But a new career in diplomacy awaited him, first with the Commonwealth Relations Service and. from 1965, with the Diplomatic Service. In the latter he had a period as Deputy Consul General in New York.

In 1972 Rainsford finally retired to the Kentish Weald where he had previously bought a house. An autobiography, Memoirs of an Accidental Airman, appeared in 1986. Rainsford is survived by his second wife Audrey and by their daughter and

son, and by two daughters of an earlier marriage which was dissolved.

KING OPOKU WARE II OF ASHANTI

King Opoku Ware II of Ashanti, died in Kumasi, Ashanti, Ghana, on February 25 aged 79. He was born on November 30, 1919.

THE 15th Asantehene, as the King of Ashanti is known. Opoku Ware II ruled an ancient kingdom that is now an administrative region of Ghana. He did so in a manner which maintained the dignity of his position and people without disturbing the delicate relationship between Ashanti and the central government in Accra. A London-trained barrister, he had succeeded to the Golden Stool, as the Ashanti throne is styled, in 1970 on the death of King Prempeh II, his second cousin, who had ruled from 1931.

The genealogy of the Kings of Ashanti is a complex one, succession being matrilineal from the first Asantehene, King Osei Tutu, who came to the throne some time around 1675. The Ashanti Kingdom reached the zenith of its power in the 19th century when it covered an area of West Africa corresponding to much of modern Ghana as well as of neighbouring Burkina Faso, Togo and the Ivory Coast. The Ashani were in conflict

with colonial Britain in the late 19th century and in 1896 British troops occupied the ancient capital, Kumasi, and deposed King Prempeh I. The Asantehene and many of his officials were sent into exile to the Seychelles. But the British were to find - as the governments of an independent Ghana have also experienced that the cultural prestige of the Ashanti simply cannot be ignored. The British authorities were forced to relent and in 1925 Prempeh was brought back to Kumasi and remstalled as King, ruling until his death in 1931.

As Matthew Poku, the future King Opoku Ware II read for the Bar at Lincoln's Inn. He served in a number of capacities in the old colony of Gold Coast: he was a surveyor in the RAF and became the first president of the African Civil Aviation Commission. The Gold Coast became independent as Ghana in 1957, the first of Britain's sub-Saharan African colonies to do so. But its first Prime Minister (and Presidenti. subsequently Kwame Nkrumah, was de-



Loyalty to his people without disturbing the relationship with Accra: King Opoku Ware II at a Grand Durbar, 1991

posed for abuses of power in 1966 and Poku served the successor regime as Commissioner for Communications.

In 1970 he was appointed Ghana's Ambassador to Italy, but before he could take up his post King Prempeh II died and he was chosen 15th Asantehene from among the dead King's relations on his mother's side. He was "enstooled" at Kumasi on July 6, 1970.

The new Asantehene continued the tradition of striking a careful balance between visible allegiance to the Ghanaian state and his responsibility to the Ashanti people. For its part the state was careful not to offend this most visible and glamorous ethnic group which, although it constitutes only 30 per cent of Ghana's population, is the focus of ridespread interest outside

Africa for its cultural vitality. Indeed, although he has no executive power in Ghana, the Asantehene is treated almost as a head of state in his own right. All heads of state visiting Ghana pay their respects in Kumasi and on one of his first trips abroad, a visit to Britain, King Opoku Ware II was received at Buckingham Palace.

He was fortunate in his

wife, Lady Victoria, a member of an influential Ashanti family and an adroit diplomat in her own right. She was always at his side

on foreign trips and fully understood the need to balance the preservation of Ashanti tradition with the opening up of the monarchy to the modern world. She was active in arranging the spectacular Ashanti exhibition at the Museum of Mankind in London in 1981. When the exhibition subsequently transferred to New York, members of the American black community thronged the city's streets to catch a glimpse of the Asantehene, who had gone to the United States for the

Though by 1995 terminally ill with cancer. Victoria also played a prominent role in Opoku Ware's silver jubilee that year. In a celebration dazzling in its colour and light. chieftains in traditional robes, weighed down by gold and jewellery, came with their entourages to pay their respects to the leader of the Ashanti race.

Lady Victoria died in 1996. King Opoku Ware II is survived by a son and two

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₩ EMERS (CONTENS

DESERVED - EARS - CHARACTER CERT

بخافهم وجواليواها

1. Hugh, suddenly on day 28th February. Devoted Humband of the late Mary and beloved Father of Oonagh, Hugh. Shauna and Flona, adored and loving Grandlather of his 14 Grandchildren. Deeply mourned by all who knew him. Requiem Mass at St William of York Roman Catholic Church, Ecclesall Road, Sheffield, on Friday 5th March at 10am. No flowers please but donations for CAFOD may be sent to G&M Lunt Funeral Directors. 38 Abboy Lane, Sheffield St OGB. Requiescat in Pace. ALL AVAIL All Seines, Bibl. All Pop Phantom, All Thustre, hingby & Spart, 0171 536 0781 CHEAPEST IN LONDON Franco Chicago, Saigon, All pop & sport We deliver, 0171 930 8636 FME SATIONS Champ, Eng V Po-land, Engly World Cop. Cricket World Cop, Worldhapton Cap Pr Rel, Ancy, All Grand Prix, Boly-Stat V Levis, Whahladon Daba All Misps sporting counts, that the Tels 0171 394 8283 CC's **ALL TICKETS** 5 NATIONS RUGBY BOUGHT & SOLD ROYAL ASCOT CRICKET W/CUF WIMBLEDON '99 HOLYFIELD V LEWIS MEMORIAL SERVICES THEATRE & TANNER - Professor P.A. ¡Tony!, A Memorial Service for Professor Tony Tanner will be held in King's College Chapel, Cambridge at 2.30 pm on Seturday, 6th March 1939. CONCERTS 0171 283 5050 FOR SALE IN MEMORIAM -A SERTHDATE Newspaper Original PRIVATE 36pmbly press 9800 906609. BOOTH - Reland Gordon, died 2nd March 1988, beloved husband of Nancy, father of Joseph and Claire, Remembered AN AMERICANA Birthday Times. Any data f15 plan from 1850's Times came Birthdate Tel: 0171 726 2626 OCHEMILURE South for sale W.J.U. Milleslane Stadium, half way Bas, 4 in a row, bast location, (30 yes) 74 0836 730730 Pen 01446 700552 HRLYARD - Pat, much missed and always remembered. Much loved by all his family. Robin. He THEES - 1791 - 1999 other ti-tion available. Bondy for presen-tation - also Sandays'. Emmer-ber When, 0181 743 6363 or Call From 0500 520000 BIRTHDAYS COM, PERSONANT, chain, limestone à terrecette fingatemes à filoque tiles. Cobble sette, stone troughs, masonary service. Not à tratement del. Bolley Heruall 01380 850037 (Wite) TARA Happy Birthday, you have been miopted in 1970, I never stopped loving you. From Mon-treal your first mother and your statum. Ann Carties 514 843 5248 or e-mail carro@total.net MORNING SUITS **EVENING TAIL SIRTS SERVICES** SURPLUS TO HIRE Agency. If you are plamp or prefer a plump playmer that 01352 715909 22 Charing Cross Rd WC2 Cry Tel 0171 823 7721 186 Fenchurch St EC3 WANTED PME NATIONS Engly tickets. All matches and mation wide callec-tion Tel/Fax 0171 636 6662 FLIGHTS

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LORD DEAN OF BESWICK

Lord Dean of Beswick, Labour MP for Leeds West, 1974-83, and former leader of Manchester City Council, died on February 26 aged 76. He was born on June 3, 1922.

JOE DEAN was a member of the Manchester School - of engineers, not economists. He learnt his skills and discovered his commitment to socialism in the Gorton locomotive factory before moving in 1959 to the MetroVickers turbine works at Trafford Park, then one of the world's great engineering centres. Fred Lee, a future Labour minister, was chief shop steward, and Hugh Scanlon. later to be president of the AUEW, was already a prominent figure in the union. In 1983, these three alumni of Trafford Park were reunited when Lord Dean was introduced into the Upper House. Lord Lee was his sponsor on one side and Lord Scanlon on the other.

Dean was the product of a Manchester slum, one of six children living in a two-up two-down terrace house, and he was educated in classes of never fewer than 50, leaving school at the age of 14. His early luck was to secure an engineering apprenticeship. His later aim was to try to ensure that the slums were removed from Manchester, and as chairman of the city's housing committee he presided over the building of 100,000 homes for Manchester Corporation. He served on the council from 1959 to 1974, and was leader for five years before he was elected to the Commons in the first general election of 1974.

He had been expected to reach Westmin-ster before then, when he stood for selection in the Ardwick constituency. He was the local candidate, with a distinguished municipal and trade union



record, and he had the backing of the engineers' union. But his opponent, Gerald Kaufman, enjoyed the support of the previous MP, Leslie Lever, and came with the bearing of a man acquainted with No 10, where he was a member of Harold Wilson's kitchen cabinet and one of the Prime Minister's closest aides. Kaufman is believed to have won by a solitary vote.

Kaufman had crossed the Pennines from his home city of Leeds to secure a Manchester seat, and Dean made the opposite journey to gain selection for Leeds West in 1974. It had been a safe Labour constituency since the war, and as late as 1979 Dean held it by a majority of nearly 10,000. At the next election. however, in 1983, disaster struck. It was worse for Dean than losing the Ardwick nomination. Michael Meadowcroft, a

Liberal whostad worked the constituency on a street to street plan, won by more than 2,000 votes. It was one of the earliest and most effective examples of the Liberals' community politics. Meadowcroft held the seat for only one Parliament before it returned to Labour, but this marked the end of Dean's Commons career. Michael Foot recognised his work for the party, however, by allocating him one of the few life peerages at his disposal.

In the Commons, Dean had proved hard-working, amiable and well informed, particularly on housing and local government. He was making his way gradually up the Commons ladder. first as parliamentary private secretary to Charles Morris, the Civil Service Minister, and then in the Whips' Office. Although he knew the importance of constituency work, his parliamentary duties meant that he did not have so much time for Leeds West, and his insistence on keeping his home in Manchester did not help. Meadowcroft, with his Bradford degree, his membership of Leeds City Council and his home in the city, saw these weaknesses, and surprised even his own party by coasting home. But this was far from the end of Dean's

parliamentary career. Until his final illness, he was a genuine working peer. He went on to the opposition front bench almost immediately after his introduction. At various times he was a Labour spokesman on the environment, housing, energy and sport. His popularity among his colleagues was proved when he was selected as a representative of the Lords in the Shadow Cabinet.

He married in 1945 Helen Hill, one of the first women to hold office in the engineers' union. She died in May last year, but he is survived by two daughters.

ACADEMY 'IMMORTALS': M. COCTEAU'S CHANCES

Elections to three vacant seats in the Académie Française are to take place on Thursday, and partly because M. Jean Cocrean is a candidate somewhat our of the ordinary the affair is creating rather more interest than usual.

The elections would have brought the

academy to its full strength of 40 members, but the deaths of M. Andre Chaumeix and M. Paul Claudel last week have left two other seats vacant, and they will have to be filled by subsenient elections.

The academy is the most illustrious of the five academies which comprise the Institut de France. Founded in 1635 by Cardinal Richelicu, its declared aim was and is "to establish firmly the rules of the language and make French not only elegant but capable of dealing with all arts and sciences".

Although many people would claim that the 40 "immortals", as they are known, are today a great deal less important on the literary scene than they used to be, and that the real mantle of literary arbitration has descended upon the Académic Concount. there is still no lack of people who would like

ON THIS DAY

March 2, 1955 **美国地名**

The rebellious poet, novelist, playwright and film-maker Jean Cocteau was duly elected to the Académie Française. "I always like to do the unconventional." he explained

to wear the green and gold uniform and bicome hat of the academician.

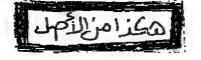
In theory, anyone can offer himself as a candidate fit could be herself, though no woman has yet done so). The initiative must come from the aspirant, and this lack of any procedure equivalent to that of Rule 11 of the Athenaeum (by which distinguished men are made members in recognition of their achievement) undoubtedly prevents some people who would be obvious choices from being elected; M. Henry de Moruberlant is an outstanding example of one who has been unable to face the prespect of what is, in effect, an electoral carbination.

The majority of the academy consists of writers or men connected with the world of

letters, but among members are also generals, ambassadors, and one prince of the Church. Cardinal Grente, Archbishop of Le Mans.
As 50 often happens in France, men
distinguished in public life are also distin-

guished in letters: thus of the academicians M. François-Poncet, the French High Commissioner in Germany, is a prolific author, the Archbishop of Le Mans is an author and historian, Maitre Garçon, one of the most brilliant advocates in the country, has written several works, and M. Herriot is both an elder statesman and a man of letters.

M. Cocteau is believed to have a good chance and his election would, in the words of a conversation overheard recently in a Paris salon. "brighten the place up a bit". Through the deaths of M. Claudel and M. Chaumeix he has lost a supporter and an opponent, so that from the point of view of numbers his chances remain unchanged. M. Daniel-Rops, the Roman Catholic author and historian, is also well in the running. If these two should be elected, it will help to bring down the average age of the "immortals". Admiral Lacaze is 95, M. Henri Bordeaux is 88, and the Archbishop of Le Mans and M. Herriot are 83.



Bandits seize Britons on safari

■ Thirteen tourists, including up to five Britons, were kidnapped as they slept at a camp site in a Ugandan gorilla reserve. Their Hutu rebel attackers, who were armed with spears, guns and machetes, also killed a game warden and set cars and tents alight before fleeing into the forest.

The bandits are believed to have taken 27 people, including a French diplomat, from the camp but they later let all the wom-., Pages 1, 2 en and children go...

Prince goes near the bone over beef

■ The Prince of Wales was embroiled in a political controversy over beef on the bone after he and Alun Michael, the Welsh Secretary, ate the banned meat at a Welsh food promotion. An investigation by environmental health officials was under way to

Straw warms police The Home Secretary Jack Straw

bles to take race policing seriously or face government intervention in their forces.......Pages 1. 9 Care of the old Frank Dobson was last night ac-

gave a warning to chief consta-

cused of "dithering" after delaying his response to a Royal Commission report calling for a £1.2 billion annual package to give free long-term nursing care to eld-.... Pages I, 4 erly people......

Solicitors' crisis

More than 100 solicitors will attend a crisis meeting at the Law Society today to demand action over a multi-million pound shortfall in the fund which pays out on negligence claims.....

Balloon challenge

The challenge to be the first team to circumnavigate the globe in a balloon became a true race with the launch of Breitling Orbiter 3 in the Swiss Alps.....Page 3

plans to cut college bar opening

Drinking time

hours in an attempt to improve examination results... £2.5 million award

Students at Oxford are opposing

A girl aged ten whose intelligent mind is trapped inside a gravely disabled body was awarded £2.5 ... Page 7

Sceptic Owen

Lord Owen, head of the new pro-European but anti-single currency lobby group, admitted at its launch that he was prepared to share a platform with Tory Euro-

Teatime battle

Channel 5 marshalled its forces to join the battle of the teatime news programmes...Page 10

srael alert

The United States sent urgent diplomatic messages to Israel, Syria and Lebanon, urging restraint in the new crisis along Israel's northern border.... Page 12

Frozen misery

Faith in the West is melting with the winter snow for the people of Gjare. The 350 ethnic Albanian villagers are scratching an existence in the open and freezing in sub-zero temperatures.....Page 13

Chinese anger

On the second day of a strained visit by Madeleine AlbrightBeijing launched a furious attack on America over reports that the Chinese were building a missile force to intimidate Taiwan......Page 14

Cancer shock

Cancer-causing chemicals in car fumes have left residents of Los Angeles hundreds of times more at risk of fatal disease than the Clean Air Act allows Page 15

Britain needs spies, savs Le Carré

Spies should come in from the cold, despite East-West détente, the spy writer John le Carré has said. The former MI6 intelligence officer declared in a rare lecture that spies are needed more than ever. With the former Soviet Union fragmented, Britain's spies had a tough challenge to keep pace with the proliferation of problems in smaller countries.....



On the day when Gleneagles opened to non-members for the first time in ten years, the weather ensured that all three courses were closed

BUSINESS

Soft landing: The stock market slumped on fears of an end to the recent spree of interest rate cuts while the the pound gained after new data suggested the economy is on course for a soft landing....Page 27 Bid approach: First Choice Holidays confirmed it had received preliminary approaches that could lead to offers for the company, lifting shares 24p to 180p......Page 27 Canary float: Canary Wharf, Britain's largest commercial office complex owner, is to float the company

Markets: The FTSE 100 fell 114.2 to 6060.9. The pound rose 0.62 cents to \$1.6075 and 0.53p against the euro to 68.01p. The sterling index rose to 101.6 from 100.9 Page 30

AA INFORMATION Road and Weather

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HOURS OF DARKNESS

Sun rises: 6.44 am

FREE BOOKS

OR SCHOOLS

Full moon today

London 5.41 pm to 6.42 am Bristol 5.52 pm to 6.52 am Edinburgh 5.48 pm to 7.01 am Manchester 5.48 pm to 6.53 am Penzance 6.05 pm to 7.03 am

Sun sets: 5.41 pm

NEWSPAPERS SUPPORT RECYCLING

Recycled paper made up 46.03% of the raw material

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on the stock market at a value of up

_ Page 27

to £2.6 billion...

Cricket: England became the first of the Test-playing countries to announce their squad for the World Cup. It includes Michael Atherton

and Andrew Flintoff Page 52 Football: The hopes of Chelsea's Graeme le Saux avoiding detection and punishment for his assault on Robbie Fowler have been foiled after the FA asked the BBC for its videotape... ..Page 52

ly with Transvaal, and Brett Sinkinson, formerly with Waikato will win their first caps for Wales against France___ _Page 49 Rowing: Cambridge's crew for the Boat Race is the tallest ever, with Josh West setting an individual record at 6ft 9in, although the cox,

Vian Sharif, is only 5ft......Page 50

Rugby union: Peter Rogers, former-

Jubilee sights: When it finally opens, London Underground's Jubilee Line extension to Greenwich will be a showcase for Britain's finest architects...Page 18

Cage stumbles: Hugely hyped before its American opening last weekend. 8mm takes Nicolas Cage on a baffling journey into the tacky world of snuff movies ____ Page 19 Terfel triumphs: In Sydney the

Weish baritone Bryn Terfel has scored a big success in the title-role of Verdi's Falstaff, which he will be bringing to Covent Garden next _Page 20

On the road: Gene have embarked on a long tour to improve their position in the lower division of Britpop

TOMORROW

IN THE TIMES

INTERFACE

How to be a star

HOMES

of the worldwide web:

But could you face it?

put your life online.

Why many elderly

facing rent rises

protected tenants are

Run of his life: Last year, over drinks in Langan's Brasserie, John Spurling, semi-retired, overweight and out of condition, agreed to run in the Flora London Marathon. Worse, the 59-year-old pledged to

raise fimillion... "Page 16 Medicine chest: Dr Thomas Stuttaford explains why avid runners need have no worries about their cardiovascular system when they run the Marathon____ Going natural: Jane Shilling had never had so much as a whiff of an aromatherapist's essence when a disastrous year made her cast aside ber scepticism...

Beacon Britain: "Only then can Britain aspire again to be a beacon on race equality and can you be remembered as a Prime Minister who truly made Britain a fairer, more equal society." Kamiesh Bahl writes to Mr Blair Write stuff: The winning essay in the Times Law Awards 1998 with One Essex Court Page 43

The visit of the Israeli Prime Minister and Foreign Minister to Jordan was intended to shape the initial relations between Israel and King Abdullah's Jordan. What was Netanyahu thinking when he mentioned Jordan as an example of a state that tried to revive the eastern front? - Ha'aretz, Tel Aviv

Preview: First of a three-part series: The Bill (ITV. 8pm). Reviews. Twists, tensions, bonds and berrayals are deftly woven in Births, Marriages and Deaths Pages 50, 51

Care free

ASHLEY COOMBE

The majority of the Royal Commission on Long Term Care thought the unthinkable but not in thePrime Minister's way Page 23

Hope for Nigeria

Olusegun Obasanjo's victory is a rare cause for celebration in a country that has known little democracy, almost no good government and is seen as one of the most corrupt in the world.....Page 23

Bring back Mr Chips

It would not take a maths teacher to work out that the equation does not balance in England and Wales some 8,000 teachers are seeking work in schools; meanwhile, classrooms are struggling to cope with

LIBBY PURVES

For what is that weekly contest across the dispatch boxes, if not a duel between Ping the Elastic Man and the bald-pated ostrichian figure of Big Eggo himself?... Page 22

GERALD KAUFMAN

There is no significant element which would be unrepresented if the Tories shut up shop...... Page 22

mai

star

trans

RICHARD TYRRELL The Internet is not all listed build-

ings and photos of roses and Prince William. Ninety per cent is devoted to pornography.....

PETER RIDDELL

The Wakeham commission on the future of the House of Lords can either deliver the minimalist package which the Government wants, or it can think boldly

Air Commodore Frederick Rainsford, bomber pilot and diplomat. Opoku Ware II, King of Ashand; Lord Dean of Beswick, former Labour MP..... ... Page 25

The Lawrence inquiry and racism in schools; Royalties on works of art; Bishops and the Lords; Gulf War illness....

THE TIMES CROSSWORD NO 21,040

ACROSS I Early restriction on freedom of

dramatist? (4-3). 5 The French crew in court creating a disturbance (7). 9 Neckwear provided by Belfast po-

liceman? (5). 10 Book every social occasion for seaside amusement (5-4). 11 One can't be out, playing this sort

of game (6). 12 Boring speakers deviate a lot (8). 14 Insect's very small tail dropped off (5). 15 Keeping tempo, adjust this highly

regarded instrument (9).

18 Bananas aren't nice – get this fruit instead (9).

20 Complete egghead in family group (5). 22 By the way, it is a furious attack with no leader (8).

Solution to Puzzle No. 21,039



24 Reduced text produced after taking skimpy notes (6). 26 Behaviour of humble old Sumerian city (9).

Burning with anger following return of note (5). 28 Back Cockney's runner after tip 29 Head off from most taxing moun-

DOWN 1 By Christmas, finally put single decoration on tree (9). Agreed to write a small volume

tain (7).

with editors (7).

3 Mobile phone has bad name for

producing strange effects (9). New sailor's collars (4). Driver getting round a disturbance amid applause (10).
6 Garden pest reducible to a degree if one is removed (5).

(7). 8 Attacks using hammers (5). 13 Friend in capital acquiring diamonds for Hannah, say (10).
 16 One friend includes another in in-

7 An obstruction to worker in firm

trigue (9). 17 Coming back up trail after near disaster (9). Attracted by Church militant? (7).

 English gamble, without doubt making a pile (7).
 Highland feature good to see during trip (5).

light (5).
25 Bird settled in to feather nest (4).

Times Two Crossword, page 52

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e diagnosidades particulades, dae mars lové boots pou boot campdains. A soben will appear on the back bags THESTIMES 23 Commotion about a part of the FREE ALKERS

Generals must areas windy but mid. Reid apreading across England, Wales and Northern ireland will clear to surnly spets and showers, Scol-land will clear to surnly spets and showers, Scol-land will have rain, with snow over hits and moun-tains Northern Islas will stoy dry and cold. Toright cold and showery, some mist and fog petches.

□ London, SE & E England, E Anglie, Central S England, Midliands, Chennel Islands: mid with outbresies of rain throughout the day Fresh SW wind. Max 12C (57F) CI NW 8 SW England, Wales, Lake District, late of Man, Central N England: cloudy, wat and mild. Brighter but still showery in the attendoor Fresh SW wind. Max 13C (5SF)

☐ NE Empland: starting dry but rain soon it in; mild. Fresh SW wind. Mex. 11C (52F) ☐ Aberdeen, Moray Firth, NW & ME Sco

the hills. Fresh SW wind, Max 9C (48F)

SW Scotland, Gleagow, Central Hightendas:
Juming cloudy with heavy rain, being as show for a
lime on higher ground. Brighter later, Max 9C (48F)

Octorery, Shelltand: mainly dry with auriny
speaks but clouding over in the attendor. Light E
wind, Max 5C (48F)

I Northern Ireland: rain closing to sunshine
and showers. Fresh SW wind, Max 12C (54F)

I hrish Republic: dull and wet at linst, becoming
brighter with blustery heavy showers by micidely.
Soring SW wind Max 13C (18F)

I Outlook: colder with surehine and wintry showers, siest and snow in Scotland.

arriving and terming to anow on hills. Fresh SE wind, Max 7C (45F)

Li Bondons, Editaturgh & Dundon, Abondons clouding over with heavy rein, possibly snow on the hills. Fresh SW wind, Max SC (48F)

24 hrs to 5 pm. b=bright; c=cloud; d=drizzle; ds=dust storm; du=cluli; f=feir; lg=log; g=gales; h=hali r=rain; sh=shower; sl=steet; s=sun; l=thunder

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Total number of lives saved so far this year: Total number of lifeboat launches so far this year: Cost to RNLI per day: Cost to taxpayer: To make a donation, telephone:

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BUSINESS EDITOR Patience Wheatcroft

TUESDAY MARCH 2 1999

Market slides as Bank rate cut fears grows

BY ALASDAIR MURRAY **ECONOMICS CORRESPONDENT**

THE STOCK market slumped yesterday as fears of a halt to the Bank of England's recent rate-cutting spree and a possible rate rise in the United States forced investors to

The pound, however, made ground against both the dollar and the euro after new data suggested the UK economy is on course for a soft landing.

January consumer credit growth was stronger than expected, while a rise in the February Purchasing Managers' Index

bolstered hopes that the manufacturing hold after the conclusion of its monthly monsector is beginning to turn the corner.

Consumer credit showed robust growth of £1.38 billion, broadly in tine with the recovery in high street sales that month, compared with £670 million in December.

The UK Purchasing Managers' Index crept higher although it still points to an overall contraction in output for the 11th consecutive month. The improvement was led by the export sector, with export order books recording smallest deterioration since December 1997.

The City interpreted the data as evidence the Bank of England may leave rates on

etary policy meeting which begins today. However, the decision is still finely balanced and the MPC may ultimately be swayed by

an expected Treasury briefing on the Government's Budget arithmetic.
The FTSE 100 index of leading shares

closed down 114.2 points at 6,060.9 in slow trade, having at one stage fallen by as much as 140 points. Investors were also unnerved by strong US economic data which knocked shares on Wall Street and heightened speculation that the Federal Reserve may be

forced to raise rates. US fourth-quarter GDP figures were revised upwards to show an annualised growth rate of 6.1 per cent. The robust data gave a boost to the dollar, which climbed to a fresh record high against the euro, touching \$1.0887. The euro was also affected by weak euroland industrial production figures published yesterday.

However, analysts have all but ruled out a rate cut when the European Central Bank meets on Thursday after the euroland measure of M3 money supply unexpectedly jumped from 4.5 per cent to 5.7 per cent in January. A top ECB official also added to the impression that the bank will again leave or the unphaneed Christian November 1988. leave rates unchanged. Christian Noyer, ECB vice-president, rejected claims that parts of the euro area, and in particular Germany, may be on the verge of deflation.

The pound also regained some ground against the euro, which fell from 68.54p to 68.0lp. Against the dollar, the pound climbed from \$1.6013 to \$1.6075.

Approaches

give 16%

lift to First

Choice

SHARES of First Choice Holi-

days leapt 16 per cent yester-day after the company an-

nounced that it had received

approaches from more than

Airtours, its acquisitive ri-

val, and Preussag, the Germa-

ny company that is buying SO.1 per cent of Thomas Cook.

are seen as the most likely bid-

ders. Other possible suitors in-

clude C&N Touristic, the sec-

ond-largest German tour oner-

ator, and SAirGroup, the par-

Airtours, which failed in an

attempt to take over First

Choice in 1993, recently raised

£300 million in fund acquisi-

tions but would probably have to issue new shares to help to

First Choice was valued at

just over £607 million yester-

day after its shares rose 24%p

to 180p. Airtours declined to

say whether it had ap-proached First Choice.

to 495p, while Thomson Trav-

Analysts have been expect-

ing to see large-scale consolida-

tion among the travel compa-

nies since the industry

emerged virtually unscathed

from a recent Monopolies and

Mergers Commission investi-

Shares in First Choice, which touched a low of 83p

last October, rose strongly last

week after it was rumoured

that a bid of 220p a share, valu-

el rose 11½p to 180½p.

Shares in Airtours rose 181/2p

one potential buyer.

ent of Swissair.

Business Today

nvestors run for cover



Anatole Kaletsky

says Blair should face up to the euro's implications

thanks to acquisitions and cost-cutting. It also said that the outlook was good, with

ahead. Profit before tax for the year to October 31 rose from Tolgo close Yan 119.14 £15.4 million to £50 million. The company has been

building a network of travel agents, and recently announced plans to have about 700 shoes within three years. SAirGroup, as the Swissair Landon close....... \$285.65 (\$286.95) * denotes middey kading prices holding company was re-named in 1997, bought a 49.9

per cent stake in LTU, a German charter airline and tour operator, last December as part of an attempt to create a new European leisure-travel group. LTU, which is based in Dusseldori, is the parent of Germany's third-largest tour operator.

agents, First Reiseburo, and to

buy 50.1 per cent of Thomas

Cook. It already owns Germa-

Analysts said yesterday that a combination of Thomas

Cook and First Choice would

make sense. Thomas Cook has

strong products, while First Choice has the distribution

channels, Moreover, Thomas

Cook has a stake of 14 per cent

in First Choice, a legacy from when it went to the aid of Own-

ers Abroad when it was fighting off the 1993 Airtours bid.

First Choice announced in

December that it had trebled

its annual pre-tax profits

ny's Hapag-Lloyd.

Speculation about First Choice has been fuelled by the fact that Phillips & Drew is a major shareholder with 13 per cent. The fund manager has recently brokered numerous takeovers for its poorer-performing stocks.

First Choice's management would share £4.3 million if they accepted a bid at the 180p level. Peter Long, managin director, would make £1.84

Care-costs blow for insurers

By MARIANNE CURPHEY

BRITAIN'S insurance firms suffered a blow yesterday with the report by the royal commission into long term care recom-mending that the State meet the care costs of the UK's elder-

ly population. Insurers had hoped the com-mission would call for computsory insurance or provision through private-public part-nership. The Government has decided to put the proposals out to formal consultation and pending a final decision insurers are unable to take much advantage of the market, which has been worth about £100 mil-lion to them. Although just 10,000 people have bought long-term care plans, they can cost up to about £15,000 for a

single-premium product.
The Association of British Insurers said that if the commission's proposals to split the cost of care from the cost of accommodation in nursing homes were implemented insurers could provide more affordable policies.

GEC deal in US marks start of transition

By ADAM JONES

GEC took the first steps in its effort to redefine itself yester-tionalised it and it is now back day when it earmarked much of the cash it will receive from the sale of Marconi Electronic Systems to buy Reltec, a US telecommunications group, for \$2.1 billion (£1.3 billion).

When it announced the Marconi defence sale to British Aerospace in January, GEC said e left with about £2.7 billion in cash to pursue acquisitions, assuming the BAe deal receives regulatory clearance, plus a E4 billion "backstop" loan facility. Lord Simpson of Dunkeld, the GEC chief executive, had declared that he now wanted to create a business twice the size of "the old GEC".

Yesterday's deal was the first manifestation of this ambition and the market responded favourably, marking up GEC shares from 498p to 516p. Lord Simpson said: "We are moving on to the front foot to grow the business again as quickly as we can."

Reltec sells telecommunications hardware and services to blue chip telephone companies such as Sprint and BellSouth. Michael Blogg, an analyst at

Charterhouse Tilney, said: "It looks like a good deal. There was a concern that, with all that money due to them, they would go out and spend quite exorbitant amounts to get the sort of acquisitions they wanted."
He said the \$2.1 billion

price, which includes \$361 million of assumed net debt. looked "quite reasonable" in relation to earnings. Reltec made unaudited carnings before interest, tax, depreciation and amortisation of \$139.8 million in 1998. It had sales of \$1.067 billion in 1998, with 86 per cent coming from the US. GEC is paying \$29.50 per share for Reltec, whose shares

had gone as high as \$49.50 last spring. Reltec's share price was hit last September by a warning that third-quarter results would be disappointing. The shares plunged to as low as \$12.625.

Lord Simpson said there had been problems with a Reltec subsidiary in Europe but he said these have since



tionalised it and it is now back on track." GEC said the deal would be

earnings enhancing before goodwill. The rationale of the deal is that GEC transmission products - the telecommunications equivalent of motorway infrastructure - will be sold through Reltec in the US.

Reitec's "access" products of road before someone's home - will be sold through GEC in Europe.

The access products are able to make the existing copper wire connections "punch above their weight", behaving more like modern fibreoptic networks in their ability to carry information for internet use or digital television. There has been an explosion in demand for these services, putting a strain on the US tel-Reltec, which is based in Cleve-

land, Ohio, also provides services such as system design and integration for its customers but these activities produce lower profit margins than the hard-ware sales, a spokeswoman said. Lord Simpson does not anticipate job losses, even though Reliec, which employs 6,600 worldwide, has a small staff presence in the UK and Europe. Lord Simpson said he expects the sale of the Marconi defence arm to be decided in the UK rather than by the European Commission, under ar-

rangements that allow mem-

ber states to maintain control

over arms industry mergers.



Wharf float tax-break lure

TAX BREAKS worth hundreds of millions of pounds will underpin the \$2.6 billion flotation of Canary Wharf. The Docklands office development, which yesterday confirmed its plans to raise more than £600 million in a new issue, will offer institutions the benefit of historic tax incentives worth some £400 million (Carl Mortished writes). City of London still benefits

from 100 per cent capital allowances made available to developers in Enterprise Zones. These mean that Canary Wharf can write off the entire construction cost of a building against its tax bill. The combination of tax breaks and losses in the early 1990s means that Canary Wharf will pay no tax for many years. The prospect of a company shielded from the Inland Revenue is attractive. One expert

said: This will be the first tax-

transparent property vehicle."

The flotation will spark a debate on how property compa-nies should be valued. According to George Iacobescu, chief executive, there are five million square feet of potential offices and shops with plan-ning permits at Canary Wharf. A letting to Salomon Smith Barney is imminent, believed to

Airborne Canary, page 31

ing the company at about £750 million, was being prepared.

Preussag, which has been replacing its traditional activities in steel, coal and engineering with travel and leisure, raised DM2 billion (£700 million) to expand its tourism business. be struck at £36 per square foot. Preussag agreed in December last year to take over Ger-

many's biggest chain of travel

Mirror rejects Trinity SAB's muted opening

TRINITY, the UK's largest regional newspaper group, was last night considering its op-tions after having its cash and shares offer for Mirror Group rejected out of hand (Raymond Snoddy writes).

Mirror Group told the Stock Exchange that it had rejected an indicative offer for the company, valuing it at about El billion, made by Trinity on Friday. Trinity had offered 0.35 new

Trinity shares and 40p in cash for each Mirror share valuing the deal at 210p. The value moved up to 215p a share by the end of the day as Trinity rose 9p to 495p after it announced a 13.4 per cent increase in pre-tax profits, before exceptionals to £83.8 million.

Mirror Group said Trinity was offering "an inadequate premium for a change of control". Expressing surprise at the speed

chief executive, said: "It remains our intention that this should be done on a friendly basis." Trinity's rivals for Mirror

Group, Regional Independent Media, publisher of the York-shire Post, is likely to apply this week to the Department of Trade and Industry for formal permission to acquire Mirror.

Commentary, page 29

SHARES of South African tion. SAB raised £150 million Breweries, the latest migrant to the London Stock Exchange

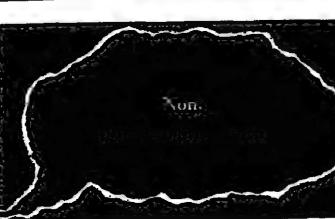
from the Cape, jumped to an immediate 19p premium yesterday as conditional dealings began (Robert Cole writes).

Stock was placed at 428p and closed the day at 447p, up 4.4 per cent. At one point the shares were changing hands at 460p. Analysts said the stock had received only a "lukewarm" recepplacing new shares in the com-pany, but held back on its op-tion to issue an additional £50 million of stock. An additional El50 million of shares being sold by pre-existing investors, however, were also placed. Seventy per cent of the shares were bought by UK institutions. Another 20 per cent

were sold to American investment houses with the remainder going to the Continent and Japan At 447p SAB, which is already listed in Johannesburg, is worth £3.4 billion and is in line to join the FTSE 100 index of leading UK quoted companies later this month.

Unconditional dealings, following approval of the shares from the London Stock Exchange, begin next Monday.

Tempus, page 30

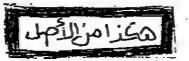


Oui.

4.99% (5.3% APR) fixed to 31/3/2002. John Charcol, to European - style UK mortgage rates.

JOHN CHARCOL 0800 71 81

Based on a \$50,000 repayment mortgage on a property valued at \$57,000 repaid over 25 years. 300 gross monthly repayments of \$295.34 at 4.99% (5.5% APR). Total amount payable gross \$29,548.50 calculated to include solicitor's fees of \$117.50, arrangement fee of \$295, John Charcol reservation fee of \$49, Based on a 250,000 repayment mortgage on a property valued at 257,000 repeald over 25 years. 300 gross monthly repayments of 2255.44 at 4.59% (5.2% APE). Total amount payable gross 259,548.50 calculated to include solicitor's fees of 2117.50, arrangement fee of 2295, John Charcol reservation fee of 249, valuation fee of 2185 and deeds vacation/production fees of 2100. The APR is 3.2% and is typical for a repayment ben over 25 years and assumes that on explry of the feed rate, the lender's Standard Variable Rate will remain at 4.59% (5.2% APE) for the remainder of the loan, in practice, this rate may offer from that assumed. After the feed rate has expired, APR may vary. Mortgage secured on property, insurance may be required. Loans subject to status, type and value of property. United funds available. John Charcol operates through branches and franchises (who are Appointed Representatives) any of which you may be connected to on the above number. John Charcol Ltd and The John Charcol Partnership to press. To maintain the quality of our service, calls to this number may be recorded for training and monitoring purposes. Head Office: 10-12 Great Queen Street, London WC28 500. Tel: 0171 611 7000 YOUR HOME IS AT RISK IF YOU DO NOT KEEP UP REPAYMENTS ON A MORTGAGE OR OTHER LOAN SECURED ON IT.



Expansion in Europe

Results for the 6 months ended 31 December 1998

Results for the second half of 1998 demonstrated the strength of the Group's strategic approach in all economic conditions, with our three main businesses achieving healthy organic growth as well as benefiting from carefully selected acquisitions in the UK and on the Continent of Europe.

Profit before tax and goodwill amortisation rose by 20% to £110.4 million, and interim earnings per share by 19% to 9.2p. In line with Hays' policy of consistently growing shareholder returns, the interim dividend will be increased to 2.0p per Ordinary Share.

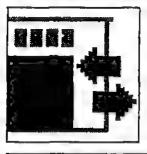
Important Developments

We continue to benefit from the trend towards the contracting-out of major business functions in the areas of distribution, commercial operations and personnel.

In addition, we are successfully expanding all three businesses' operations into the Continent of Europe through the careful acquisition and development of companies with compatible management structures and business philosophies.

Prospects

All three core activities remain well placed for growth. Planned future developments include new outsourcing contracts and further acquisitions to build on our increasing progress throughout Europe.

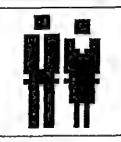


Operating profits were ahead of second half 1997 by 6% to £38.4 million. Our presence in all the major European countries is a great advantage as both retailers and manufacturers reorganise their distribution



Operating profit rose by 21% to £34.7 million. Mail Services is now a leader in pre am deliveries in France, Following recent acquisitions Hays now offers a broad range of Business Process Support Services.

PERSONNEL



Operating profit up 30% to £41.6 milion. Strong growth continues particularly for temporary placements. Has Personnel is now well established in France in the specialist sectors of IT. Banking and Insurance staff.

1998 %Change

FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS FOR THE SIX MONTHS ENDED 31 DECEMBER 1998

			_
Profit before tax*	£92.2 m	£110.4m	+20
Earnings per ordinary share	7.7p	9.2p	+19
Net dividend per share	1.7p	2.0p	+16

To receive a copy of the Interim Report for 1998. please write to David Beckley.

Hays plc, Hays House, Millmead, Guildford, Surrey GU2 5HJ.

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SLPH profits halved by bad weather spell

By Marianne Curphey, insurance corresponden

GENERAL insurance profits at Sun Life and Provincial Holdings (SLPH), the UK insurer controlled by AXA of France, have halved as a result of bad-weather claims in 1998.

SLPH launched a E3.4 billion bid for Guardian Royal Exchange in January and said yesterday a strategic review would settle the fate of two of GRE's business units.

Rumours had been circulating that Mark Wood, group chief executive of SLPH, was preparing to sell GRE's Irish and UK Life operations once the deal had gone through. He said yesterday, however,

New chief

for Close

Brothers

Sir David Scholey, the former

SG Warburg chairman, is to

become chairman of Close Brothers, the independent mer-chant bank. He succeeds

Michael Morley, who is retir-ing early because of ill health.

fall in pre-tax profits to £33.2

million from 136.75 million for

the six months to January 31.

Rod Kent, chief executive, at-

tributed the fall in profits to an exceptional first-half last year.

Earnings were 18.35p a share (20.15p), but the interim

dividend rises to 5.3p a share

(4.8p). The shares fell 324p to

632!4p. City Diary, page 31

McBride departure

McBride, the manufacturer of

household products and wash-

ing powders, is parting company with Johan Vandeputte.

one of its two managing directors, after a difficult half-year

in which its sales were hit by

the success of Persil tablets.

Turnover rose 6 per cent to £248.4 million in the six

months to December 31 helped by acquisitions. Pre-tax profits

fell to £3.6 million (£14.1 mil-

lion). Earnings per share fell from 6.9p to 2.9p. The interim dividend is maintained at 2.5p.

Shares dip at Ocean

Ocean Group, the transport and environmental services

company, yesterday posted its

fifth consecutive year of earn-

ings growth but saw its shares fall 38p to 804p after it said the outlook was challenging and it

failed to provide any fresh ac-

quisition news. Underlying

pre-tax profit was 13.1 per cent

ahead at £83.1 million, for the

year ending December 31. Un-

derlying earnings per shares rose to 17.95p (16.60p) and turn-over was £1.33 billion (£1.13 bil-

Break talks to rival

Break for the Border, the bar

and restaurant operator, and

Po Na Na Group, its Ofex-listed rival, are the latest leisure

sector minnows to join the con-

solidation bandwagon. The companies issued a joint statement yesterday confirming that they were "in discussions

which may or may not lead to a merger". The enlarged group would have a market

capitalisation of about £35 million. A deal is expected within

NTL one of Britain's big three

cable companies, yesterday completed a £500 million deal

that will allow it to supply ITV

and Channel 4 via its ana-

logue service until at least 2012. The deal extends NTL's

current contracts by ten years.

The deal aims to secure trans-

mission of the two channels un-

til the Government switches

Chesterfield sales

Chesterfield Properties, the company that is liquidating its

estate and returning cash to

shareholders, began the proc-

ess yesterday with the sale of

l6 sites, raising £100 million.

off analogue signals.

Boost for NTL

own-label

supermarkets*

Yesterday Close reported a

that it was "too early to say" what would happen to the busimillion). nesses until the review had

been completed in four to five SLPH unveiled a 14 per cent rise in full-year operating profits in 1998 to £247.1 million (1997 pro-forma: £216.5 mil-

Weather-related claims of £14-5 million affected SLPH's general insurance operating profit before tax which fell to £26 million (1997: pro-forma £52.2 million).

The insurer's results were boosted, however, by a 21 per cent rise in life and pensions operating profit to £210.3 million (1997 pro-forma £173.3

The group said the 1997 merger between AXA Equity and Law and Sun Life had months, six months ahead of schedule, and estimated savings had increased to £47 million (originally £37 million). Asset management operating profit before tax increased 24 per cent to £29.1 million

full-year dividend is up 15 per cent to 13.5p per share. SLPH said the proposed merger with GRE would generate £55 million of

(1997: £23.4 million) and the

previous estimate of £50 million.

The group has spent £6 million promoting the AXA brand but Mr Wood said he intended to keep the Sun Life brand and the PPP healthcare brand for the short term.

If the proposed deal with GRE goes ahead, the group would derive 61 per cent of premiums from UK life business, 10 per cent from health, 5 per cent from Ireland, 9 per cent from AXA's general insur-ance brands and 15 per cent from GRE's general insurance businesses.

Tempus, page 30

Hodder makes big advance

A RECORD pre-tax profit of £9.4 million left Tim Hely Hutchinson, chief executive of the stock market would re-

to 260p yesterday. Hodder lifted sales with best-

Hodder Headline, hoping that

profit for the year to December was achieved on a 10 per cent rise in sales to £102.5 million. Hodder ended the year with net cash of £1.7 million, compared with borrowings of

£2.5 million a year earlier.

We can't find publishing companies to buy with sales growth of 10 per cent plus and net cash. They don't exist and yet we are at a discount to the market." Mr Hely Hutchin-son said. The shares rose 25p

Earnings rose 13 per cent to 17.9p a share. A 5.55p final dividend lifts the total to 8p from

BY RAYMOND SNODDY

value the publishing company. The 15 per cent growth in

sellers such as Dickie Bird's autobiography, Tom Clancy's Net Force and Cold Mountain by Charles Frazier. Sales in the first seven weeks of this year are 11 per cent ahead of last year and 18 titles have so far appeared on national bestseller lists, including John Le Carre's Single & Single and Josephine Cox's The Guilded Cage.

£100m mutuality boost

BY CAROLINE MERRELL

YORKSHIRE Building Society is to spend £100 million this year on demonstrating the benrepayments.

tempt to convert the society by carpetbaggers will henceforth need 75 per cent support from straight majority.

BUSINESS ROUNDUP

House price decline stirs downturn fear

HOUSE prices fell for the third time in four months, stoking fears of a downturn in the housing market. The Halifax monthly survey estimates house prices fell by 0.5 per cent in February, bringing the annual rate of house price inflation down to 3.6 per cent compared with 4.4 per cent in January. The sharp decline surprised the lender. Halifax gave warning that any further removal of mortgage interest tax relief or an increase in stamp duty in next

week's Budget would harm consumer confidence even further.

Martin Ellis, economist at the Halifax, said: "It's a sharper downturn than we expected. But we think it is a temporary setback." The Halifax is still predicting the annual rate of house price inflation will be 4 per cent in the final quarter of 1999. The average price paid for a house was £73,004 last month compared with £73,406 in January.

Redrow sales ahead

REDROW, the housebuilder, underpinned the recent rally in its share price yesterday by saying that it is selling 4 to 5 per cent more homes in 1999 than in 1998. Redrow shares have bounced back from 125p in September, to 173p yesterday. Steve Morgan, chairman, said demand for houses should continue to be stable. Redrow announced a 13 per cent rise in interim pre-tax profits to £26.1 million. Sales were up 8 per cent at £161.1 million. Earnings per share were 8.6p (7.3p). A dividend of 1.5p (1.35p) will be paid.

Computerland tumbles

COMPUTERLAND felt the wrath of London's sensitive IT sector yesterday after a mild profits warning sent its shares down 37 per cent, Graham Gilbert, its founder and managing director, said orders for desktop computers were running about £2 million below the £15 million target for the half year. This comes two months after he told his sales staff to chase more profitable long-term service contracts instead of low-margin computer sales. The shares closed 59½p cheaper at 100½p against a high last July of 360p.

Finelist lifts sales

AN INCREASED focus on organic growth and a series of contracts with companies such as BT lifted interim sales at Finelist, Britain's largest car parts distributor, 39 per cent to £243.7 million. Pre-tax profit, however, for the six months to December 31, fell to £13.9 million from £14.4 million. Chris Swan, chairman, said: "The second half provides us with the chance to increase our hold on the UK market." The proposed interim dividend is up 3.7 per cent to 2.8p.

Aggreko powers ahead

AGGREKO, the power equipment hire group, promised to continue with its ambitious expansion plans, especially in the US, after beating analysts' forecasts for 1998 with pre-tax profits up 18.4 per cent to £39.3 million in the year to December 31. Turnover at the company, which was spun out of Christian Salvesen in 1997, rose to £178.9 million (£163.3 million) while the total dividend rose 9.3 per to 4.12p (3.77p).

Morse signals intent

MORSE GROUP, the computer distributor and services group, said it could be valued at as much as £367 million when it comes to the stock market at the end of the month. Morse said yesterday that its shares are to be priced in a range of 250p to 300p. At the middle of the range, the company will raise about £55 million to fund a capital reorganisation and pay off debt and to invest in overseas operations.

members rather than just a efits of mutuality to its members through enhanced savings rates and lower mortgage Yorkshire yesterday announced a 24 per cent increase

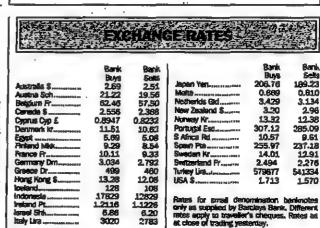
Open book: John Le Carré, left, with Tim Hely Hutchinson

It is also introducing a rule that will make it harder for a pro-conversion resolution to be passed by members: any at-

in pre-tax profits to £68.6 million, on the back of net mortgage lending virtually un-changed at £908 million.

Revealing the plans to divert another £100 million to members. David Anderson, Yorkshire's chief executive, said: We have given out mutual benefits worth £180 million over three years."

It was announced that as of yesterday the society's mortgage rate moved down to 6.6



EU approval for Zeneca merger

BY PAUL DURMAN

THE European Commission yesterday gave its blessing to the £45 billion merger of Zeneca and Astra after the companies agreed to address concerns over their combined market share in the treatment of hypertension and in anaesthetics. Zeneca will have to continue financine the commercialisation of the local anaesthetic developed by Chiroscience as a condition of securing EU approval for the merger.

Astra's dominance of the local anaesthetic market in Europe has meant Zeneca has had to agree to hand back rights to the Chiroscience drug, which it acquired only last year. Zeneca has also given an undertaking to appoint an independent distributor for Tenormin, its beta-

blocker heart drug, in Sweden and Norway. Zeneca said the undertaking

needed to secure clearance would not have a material impact on its business. The merger still needs the backing of Astra's shareholders and American competition authorities. Chiroscience needs to find a

new marketing partner for the anaesthetic it calls Chirocaine. With Zeneca's support. John Padfield, Chiroscience's chief executive, still hopes the drug can be launched later this year. Zeneca has agreed to hold on to its 3 per cent stake in Chi-

rescience for an undisclosed period beyond June, the end of the previously agreed lock-up period. Chiroscience shares rose 8½p to 234p.

Pearson pushes ahead with German paper

BY RAYMOND SNODDY, MEDIA EDITOR

PEARSON, the media and information group that owns the Financial Times. announced vesterday that it is pushing head with the £60 million launch of a new business daily in Germany in a joint venture with Gruner + Jahr.

Neither the title nor the launch date of the paper are being announced at the moment but the new daily will be printed on FT-style pink paper and will aim to increase the business newspaper market in Germany. Both Pearson and Gruner +

Jahr, one of Germany's largest magazine and newspaper publishers, are each expected to invest £30 million in the venture over the next three years. The aim is to reach an operational breakeven point by thou

Stephen Hill chief executive of Pearson's FT Group and chairman of the new venture, said: "We can build a profitable and successful German language business newspaper in what is the world's third-largest economy." The paper will be edited by

Andrew Gowers, until recently deputy editor of the FT and a German speaker. Although the new paper will carry some content from the Financial Times, it will be written, designed and published specifically for the German market. An associated website will also be launched

The FT Group has already had success in business publishing in Europe through acquisition. The main opposition in Germany will be Handelsblatt, the country's established business daily.

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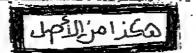
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ir Victor Blank's term as a newspaper proprietor looks likely to be short lived. The friendly merger talks the Mirror

Group chairman had been hav-ing with Trinity have turned distinctly frosty. Instead of the amica-ble coming together which would have seen Sir Victor emerge as chairman of the enlarged group, the bid that has now been slapped on the table indicates that the serv-

ices of the ingenue press baron would no longer be required. We are talking hostile here.

Perhaps this should not be surprising. It would have taken a department of the pressure of the pres gree of magnanimity for the Trin-ity chairman, Peter Birch, to have ceded the role to Sir Victor. After all, the Mirror Group chairman, in his role as deputy chairman of GUS, recently deprived Mr Birch of a future as chairman of Argos. Had GUS not succeeded in its hard-fought takeover of the catalogue retailer, Mr Birch would now be chairman. Instead, he has had to suffer the prolonged accusations from GUS chairman Lord Wolfson that, as a member of the Argos board at the time, Mr Birch did not adhere to the highest of City standards. While the Takeover Panel has largely dismissed the GUS carping, it can have done lit-tle to make Mr Birch feel well-dis-

He has easily replaced the lost Argos job with the chairmanship of Britain's biggest property com-pany, Land Securities, but that is no reason why Mr Birch should

posed towards the Wolfson team.

Sir Victor takes a Birching

as a media magnate. Orchestrating genuine mergers requires a degree of altruism which does not always come easi-

ly. When Peter Birch was chief executive of the Abbey National, do-ing a remarkable job of transforming the building society. Na-tional Westminster suggested that together their organisations could make music. Despite the clear potential, the discussions

were not prolonged.

Those synergies undoubtedly exist in putting Trinity and Mirror together to create the country's largest media group. The sheer scale means that the deal must now be put on ice while the MMC scrutinises the pairing. That will take many months, although any analyst could explain that the only problem areas are Scotland and Northern Ireland. If Trinity and Mirror had already agreed a friendly merger, they could already be presenting the MMC with the solution to those minor difficulties, Instead, there will be months of uncertainty, merely delaying the start of the real auction as RIM and Trin-

in the meantime, Sir Victor Blank has to try to run Mirror as if it has a long-term independent future. That means saying good-bye to News Bunny and topless

COMMENTARY by our City Editor

darts: the buyers are already lin-ing up for Live TV. Sir Victor knows his task is to

win the best price for Mirror. That is certainly closer to 230p than Trinity's sighting shot. But, given that the rival RIM is offering cash and major shareholders PDFM have indicated their preference for some paper, a touch of friendliness, coupled with a little more generosity, might have giv-en Trinity a winning edge.

Long-term this is not the answer

he insurance industry had hoped that the Royal Commission into long-term care was about to deliver a bonanza. The insurers' own efforts to sell policies that will pay out for nursing home fees have proved pitifully ineffective: this looks suspiciously like one area of financial services where mis-selling has not occurred. Yet demographics and the country's ability to meet the cost of an increasingly aged population point-ed to a growing need for just this sort of insurance policy.

The Royal Commission does not think so. While a couple of its members voiced concern about the costs that the commission's proposals might be laying in store for future generations, the majority have been more conmajority have been more con-cerned to ensure equity. This is fine in principle. It is clearly wrong that the prudent individu-al should be penalised for having amassed capital that can be used to fund nursing care in old age while the prodigal will be provid-ed with the same level of care. But the bills have to be taken into account, and the bills will unaccount, and the bills will un-

doubtedly rise. The Government now has to decide whether to act on the commission's report or put it on a shelf and concentrate on more palatable issues. It should do nei-ither. The failing in the exercise was to try to isolate long-term care from the whole process of growing old. The subject needs to be viewed within the context of the whole pensions debate which the Government once seemed so keen to initiate but which has degenerated into the sort of conversation in which no one listens to

the others.

There is huge confusion now about the Government's plans on pensions. This is not just among those who should be paying for them but also among those who should be providing them. Instead of sim-plifying the system, the propos-als for stakeholder pensions have been added as an extra

tier on a structure already threatening to topple.
Yet, as the average age extends and retirement ages head in the opposite direction, the importance of ensuring that individuals make adequate provision for old are has paget been greater. It old age has never been greater. It should not be impossible for that provision to take account of the prospect that, at some stage during that prolonged retirement, they may need to pay for nursing care. The failure of insurers to sell their long-term care policies

owes as much to the reluctance of consumers to contemplate needing such treatment as it does to

Truly radical thinking could come up with a package which ensured that savers looked to a future which was realistic rather

Blair's euro effect lasts just six days

R ecession, what recession?
Japan aside, the other three main currency blocs are suddenly all rethinking their drive of cutting interest rates to keep Eastern infections at bay. In America, wage and activity indicators are buoyant. The Federal Reserve's next move could be upwards, some analysts now speculate, as Alan Greenspan seeks to continue his virtuoso performance of keeping economic growth on the tightrope between inflation and recession.

On the Continent, Germany may how! with exaggerated pain like a footballer appealing for a penalty. But referee Wim Duisen-berg and his assistants at the European Central Bank say that the rest of euroland does not need a cut. Growth is healthy from Maastricht to Madrid and from

will have to do without. In Britain, where growth is still weakest and rates highest, job vacancies, new house reservations and even export orders are perking up. So the headlong cuts in base rates since November may well pause to let the world

Milan to Dublin, so Germany

absorb Gordon Brown's Budget. This is not convergence, but there is a short-term outbreak of policy coincidence. Why, then, has it caused sterling to rise against the dollar and therefore also against the euro?

Though dull, the UK economy is under more certain control than either of the other two. Denis Healey, New Europe's old bruiser, argues that the euro might not exist in five years time. Even the euro's biggest fan could not say that about sterling.

Fly more flags

THIRTY years to the day that Concorde had its first test flight. Concorde had its first test light.

13 of the measly 14 aircraft bought by the flag carriers of Britain and France are still profitably whisking financiers and celebrities across the Atlantic at speeds of which modern aircraft and analysis. can only dream. The Anglo-French operation has long been superseded by Airbus. Flag carriers of the shareholding countries will still be expected to back the plarmed A3XX super jumbo with orders to get it off the ground. Along with Air France, presumably Virgin Airways is already pre-paring to be a launch operator.

Burmah to repay £280m to investors

By Carl Mortished, international business editor

BURMAH CASTROL, the lubricants and chemicals group, surprised the market yesterday with plans for a £280 million capital repayment. The promised payout of 131p per share by way of a capital reconstruction boosted Burmah's flagging share price by 5 per cent to 859p. The chemicals company,

which owns the Castrol GTX motor oil brand, has been suffering from weak demand worldwide, in particular from economies in the Far East, such as Thailand, where Castrol had particular success in gaining market share. Asia Pacific accounts for a third of Burmah's business and its shares have almost halved in value from a peak of £13 last June.

chief executive, said yesterday that he was more optimistic than a year ago with trading conditions in Asia Pacific showing some signs of improvement. Burmah vesterday reported

flat pre-tax profits of £246 million, after excluding currency losses. Losses from currency fluctuations reduced operating profit by £25 million last year, reducing reported pre-tax profit by 7 per cent.

Burmah is returning capital by way of a share split into or-dinary shares and capital shares. Subject to Court ap-proval, the latter will be can-celled by way of a cash pay-ment or issue of loan notes. As a result, the ordinary shares in issue will be reduced by 16.7 per cent, boosting the company's earnings per share.

Mr Stevenson promised yesterday that Burmah would continue to restructure and indicated that acquisitions and disposals would focus the business further. A £110 million three-year reorganisation programme is under way and is expected to gener-

year by the end of the period. Castrol's profit saw a decline from £211 million to £187 million after the currency hit. However, the company said it had gained market share despite intense competition and the market declines in the Far East. Chemicals profits were down El million to 175 million during the year.

Gucci to confront LVMH

By Fraser Nelson

GUCCI has called a show-down with rival LVMH on March 23, when it will hold a vote on whether it should accept a board director nominated by Bernard Arnault, the LVMH chairman.

Domenico De Sole, chief executive of Gucci, is urging shareholders to reject M Arnault's nominee as "the eyes and ears" of the rival fashion houses in the LVMH stable. Although M Arnault had

bought 34.4 per cent of the shares, Gucci has created an equal amount of shares that will be controlled by a trust neutralising any sway he may

have in the voting.
It is expected that Umberto Guida, M Arnault's nominated director, will be rejected unless LVMH promises not to buy any more Gucci shares and gives assurances that Si-gnor Guida will leave the room when its business secrets are discussed LVMH is still trying to sue Gucci for issuing the new shares.

Aegis aims for top spot in US

BY RAYMOND SNODDY

AEGIS, the advertising and marketing group, has set itself the target of being the number one operator in its field in the US within five years. Crispin Davis, chief execu-

tive, said that Aegis, which yesterday announced a 17 per cent increase in pre-tax profits to E51.1 million for the year to December, plans to expand in the US in areas such as the Internet, research, direct response marketing and sponsorship.

The company said it has as much as £100 million to spend on acquisitions. "The US represents 40 per cent of the world advertising market. We have made a very encourag-ing start there and the upside is enormous," Mr Davis said.

In January Aegiswon a \$280 million (£170 million) contract from Pfizer, its biggest yet, and now bopes to topple the leaders of the fragment-ed US market, Y&R and Mc-

Cann Erickson. The full-year dividend rises 21 per cent to 0.85p.

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Shield improves its offer for Axis

SHIELD DIAGNOSTICS has been forced to improve its merger offer for Axis Biochemicals by 25 per cent to secure the backing of the Norwegian company's largest sharehold-

ers (Paul Durman writes). Tharald Brovig, an influential Norwegian investor, and Mosvold-Farsund, a venture capital firm, agreed to back the merger only after David Evans, Shield's managing director, offered to sweeten the

terms. The £180 million deal is

intended to create a world leader in the field of innovative heart disease tests. Shield will now have to offer 1.25 new shares for every Axis share.

Embarrassingly, the original deal was strongly backed by the Axis management headed by Svein Lien, who is to become joint managing director of the merged company. Mr Lien said the deal had to be announced in January before it was "exactly clear ... what our shareholders [were] willing to accept".

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Investors run for cover over US rate worries

WHILE interest rates this side of the Atlantic may yet still be coming down, in the US there is a real danger that the next move will be up.

Stronger than expected US economic data and evidence of a slowdown in the computer industry have raised fears about a tightening of fiscal policy by the Federal Reserve.

This sent investors scurrying for cover in London where questions were again being asked about the high level of the market in the face of further falls in corporate profita-bility among blue chips.

As trading drew to a close in the Square Mile, the Dow Jones industrial average was nursing a fall of more than 80 points. The FTSE 100 index did manage to close above its low point of the day, but was still down 114.2 at 6,060.9 by the close. Trading conditions proved thinner than of late with 916 million shares registered. By contrast, the FTSE 250 index rose 10.1 to 5,258.4.

Marks & Spencer retreated 8½p to 411½p as WestLB Pan-mure, the broker, told clients to "sell". It values the shares at 300p. Several directors unloaded stock yesterday. Christopher Littmoden has sold 41,079 at 416p reducing his holding to 9,369 shares, while Paul Smith has sold 16,292 shares at 414p and now holds 2,000 shares.

The start of unofficial trading in South African Breweries saw the issue lose much of its sparkle after a placing at the 428p level. The price touched 460p before slipping to close 19p better at 447p in thin trading that saw less than a million shares change hands.

First Choice raced up 2Sp to 1831/p after confirming reports in The Times last week, that it has received bid approaches. At these levels, the package tour operator is capitalised at £617 million. The tour operators have been undergoing a period of consolidation. Airtours, which is seen as a potential suitor for First Choice, rose 181 in to 495p and Thomson Travel

Iliap to ISOup in sympathy. Severn Trent was wanted HSBC Securities, the broker, raised its recommendation for the shares from "add" to "buy". A broker's recommendation enabled RMC Group to resist the downward pull with a rise of 291:p to 709p. JP Morgan, the US investment



Nice wok if you can get it: lan Blackburn, chief executive, saw shares of Perkins Foods edge hip higher to 112/2p

bank, has been telling clients that the shares are undervalued and should be bought.

A revival of speculative buying hoisted SIG Group 74p to 1750:p. Followers of the stock claim CRH, the Irish building materials group, may be looking to hid for SIG.

Elsewhere in the building materials industry. Hanson hardened 5thp to 515thp as Salomon Smith Barney, the US securities house, raised its target for the shares from 520p to 570p.

ARM Holdings ran into profit taking ending the session 50p lower at £23.42%. Douglas Dunn, a director, has bought 2,400 shares for £19.25. He will be hoping the price can maintain its recent momentum that has seen it come up from the 750p level since

3.100 3,000 2900 2.70X 2.500 index (rebased) 2,400 2,300 Mar Apr May Jun Jul Aug Sep Oct Nov Dec Jan Feb

The latest twist in the food price war has succeeded in unnerving investors. Many of them now take the view that the situation can only get worse.

This time Asda. unchanged at 1551/p, has embarked on a cost-cutting programme which brokers vals. It follows hard on the heels of a similar move last week by rival Tesco, down 814p at 16812p, which cut the price of 250 product lines.

Brokers have had plenty

to say on the subject. Credit

Lyonnais has cut J Sainsbury. Ip better at 361%p. from "buy" to "add" and, instead, has turned its attention to rival Somerfield, up 514p at 380p, which it rates a

WestLB Panmure, the broker, has cut its rating for Safeway, down op at

"buy" to "hold". Credit Suisse First Boston, the broker, has gone one step further and told clients to switch out of the and into general retailers.

May, Last year ARM raised profits from £3.67 million to £5 million and enjoys a rating of about 175 times earnings.

Linx Printing Technologies shaded in to 16750 after the sale of shares by a number of directors. Hillary Wienberg has sold 125,000 at 172p and now owns 688,742. Michael Keeling 100,000 at 172p leav-ing him with 786,908, while Paul Davis has disposed of 50,000 at 172p reducing his holding to 316,250.

Burtonwood Brewery held steady at 153½p with Richard Gilchrist, a director, picking up 7,806 shares at 155p. He now owns 1.89 million shares. Euromoney Publications slipped 124p to £15.624. Rich-

ard Jell, a director, has bought 5,000 shares paying £13.30. SFI Group advanced 5p to 175%p in the belief that its merger with Regent Inns, all-square at 180%p, will succeed. Word is Bass, down 14p to

852p, was pondering a bid of its own, but has pulled out. Perkins Foods edged 14:p higher to 11255p after wading in with final results showing pre-tax profits almost doubled at £55.1 million. The company said trading in the first few weeks of the current year was

in line with expectations. AIM-listed Petra Diamonds was briefly suspended at 60p. The group, as lead member of the Nabera Mining consortium, has been awarded the management contract for the South African gov ernment-owned Alexkor dia mond mining business.

Alliance Resources was

also suspended at 6p due to the delay in publication of its interim results following the acquisition of Difco in November. They are now due to be published on March 12. ☐ GILT-EDGED: Strong than expected consumer credit

numbers left bonds nursing falls and may have limited the scope for another cut in interest rates when the Monetary Policy Committee meets this week. In the futures pit, the June series of the long gilt finished 81p down at £116.14. while among conventional issues liteasur lost 91p at £132.69.

☐ NEW YORK: US shares drifted lower on the back of concern about interest rates and weakness in the technology sector. At midday the Dow Jones industrial average was down 13.86 points to 9.292.72.

MAJOR:INDICES New York (midday): _9292.72 (-13 86) __1229 79 (-8.54) Tokyc 14221.75 (-145.79 Hong Kong: Anisterdam: AEX hds: ____ Frankfurt 784.31 (-127.50) Singapore: 1432.85 (+10.94) Brussels 更测 230183 (-61.85) Paris. CAC-46 4032.05 (-60.69) 1342 10 (-19 10) London _37043 (-56.0) _6060 9 (-114.2) _5258.4 (+10.1) FIZE 231 2770.66 (-33.79 _112.90 (-0.74)

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HIGHTS ISSUES

Peptide Therapeutics n/p (78) 2112 ... MAJOR CHANGES

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A murky brew THE INVESTMENT argument over South African Breweries is finely balanced. Much depends on the fate of the 27 per cent stake that is

owned by Beycon, a consortium including three greats of Cape industrial life: Liberty Life, Anglo American and Johnnic, Bevoon is a seller. But the way in which it sells determines the fate of SAB. If the shares

are sold in one lot, all out takeover speculation can be generated. However, if the stake is sold on the open market, the supply bulge will depress the share price. Bevoon has already touted the stake around and not found a trade buyer, a fact that immediately poses the rhetorical question that if the trade professionals do not

have attractions to market investors even if trade buyers overlook it. SAB has a solid mar-

want SAB, why should anyone else?
That is too simplistic an analysis. SAB can

ket position in South Africa and is exploiting opportunities to sell beer in other developing economies. With the access to funds brought with the London quote SAB ought to find other avenues. It is also set to join the FTSE 100. which means its stock price will be chased up by index trackers.

But with 90 per cent of the South African beer market and its leading Lion and Castle brands, SAB is perhaps too powerful for its own good. Emerging markets consumerism is hardly in rude health either. Followers of Billiton — that other London

quoted South African whose share price graph is printed below - should need no reminding that stock overhang added to its

more fundamental trading weaknesses.

Take a toehold in SAB, perhaps. But the company has much left to prove.

Billiton

LONDON life has been brutal for Billiton. The company's vulnerability to depressed commodity prices has prevented it being swept along with many FTSE 100 counterparts, leaving it trudging along a less salubrious path. Yesterday's results, which

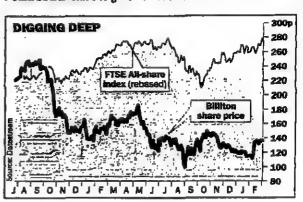
saw Billiton's interim profit plunging 34 per cent, points to more of the same for the South African-based mining house. Brian Gilbertson, chairman, almost said as much when he revealed that average commodity prices for January and February were below those of the first half and that the outlook remains tough.

Bob Wilson, Rio Tinto chairman, made similar observations last week. But the key difference between the gi-ant mining groups rests with Billiton's big exposure to alu-minium. This is where the

prognosis is particularly bad, especially because stockpiles At least one leading Bilespecially because stockpiles of the metal are rising.

The price of aluminium, and that of most other metals, is not expected to record any significant recovery until next year. Some gains in metal prices and related equity pric-

liton shareholder is expected to sell into any share price strength. The temptation to follow suit is high. If you want returns from Billiton you must be prepared to wait and, while that is true of any es may come as change for stock in the sector, if you have the better is anticipated, but it a taste for mining risk, stick stock in the sector, if you have would be a mistake to grab at to Rio Tinto.



F&C

IN THE past three years. shares in the Foreign & Colonial Investment Trust, the oldest collective investment vehi-de with 100,000 private investors on its register, have risen by just 16.2 per cent. That is appalling given that the total return from the FISE Allshare has been nigh on 70 per cent across the same period.

But sait is rubbed into the wounds because while the shares are up 16 per cent the net asset value of the trust has grown by 41.8 per cent. Comparison with the Allshare leaves F&C's investment management skills open to question. But the widening asset value discrepancy must also make investors wonger whether the investment trust, as an investment vehicle, is worth persevering

Investors who feel robbed should be patient, however. A renewed focus on investment performance and on market-

ing to new investors may help F&C performance. The plan to buy back up to 15 per cent of its shares ought to narrow the discount too. There is well-placed cynicism about the effectiveness of buybacks, but with about 120 investment trusts planning to rein in stock supply through buy-backs, billions of pounds worth of unwanted paper will be taken out of the sys-

The trust must narrow the alarming 17 per cent NAV discount or it will be forced, a la Electra, to dissolve itself. This is no time to sell.

Sun Life

FIERCE competition, rising claims and pressure on premitum rates makes it difficult for any insurer to write profitable general insurance business these days. Nerves are further stretched with underwriting losses increasing alarmingly thanks to weath-

Economies of scale help, of course, and this was the rationale behind Sun Life and Provincial's bid for Guardian Royal Exchange earlier this month. Assuming the GRE deal gets nodded through SL&P will become the thirdlargest insurer in Britain. UK life business will account for 61 per cent of premiums in the enlarged group, and general insurance will account for 24 per cent.

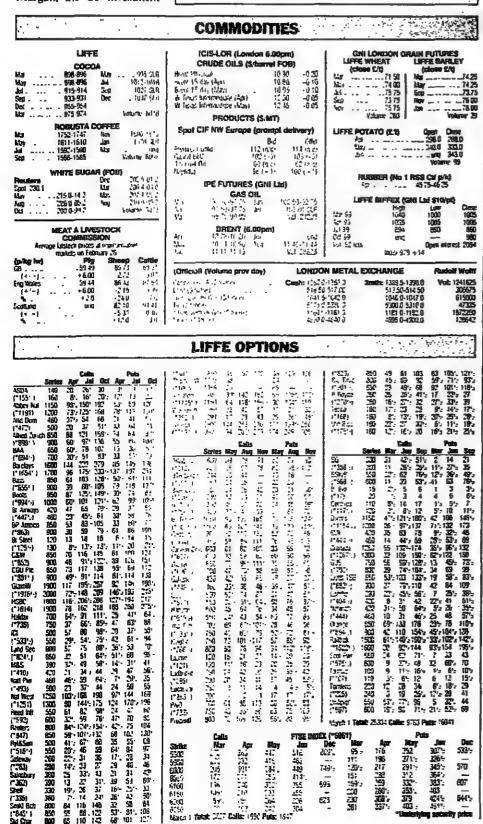
The pre-GRE results from SL&P, out yesterday, show it is already strengthening itself and as long as premium rates stay at least flat for the next two years, acquiring GRE's general insurance business will enhance earn-

ings from year one. Doubts persist about the wisdom of buying into a company that has a majority shareholder, but there is every reason to be confident that SL&P will grow as well as any in the sector. Accumulate.

EDITED BY ROBERT COLE

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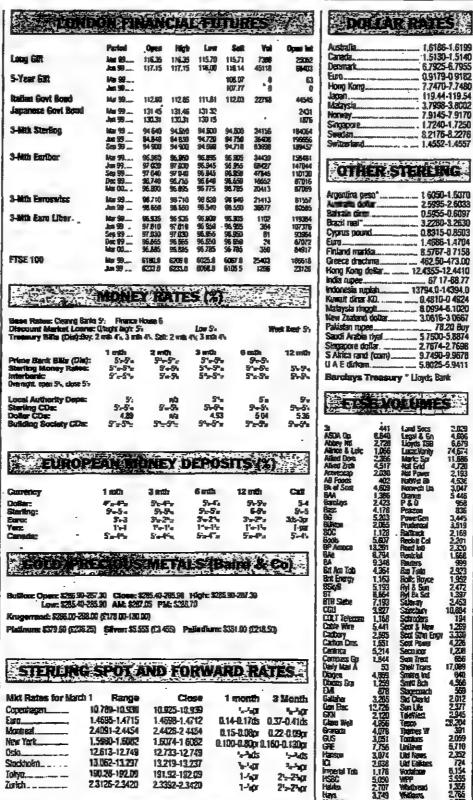
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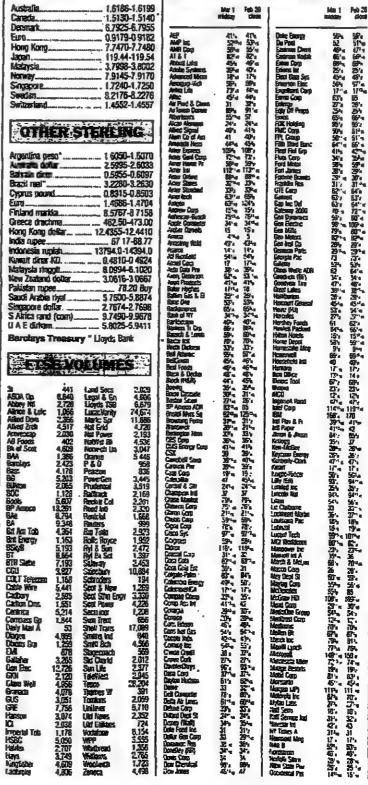
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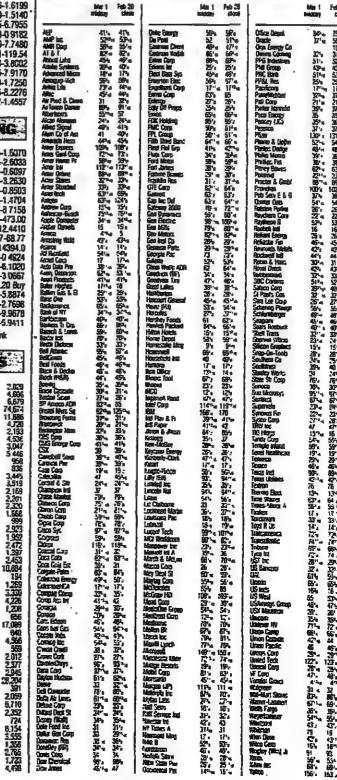
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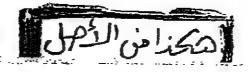
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Time for Blair to face up to the euro's implications

New Europe offers the chance for an honest debate about Britain and the

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ooking back over the columns that I have written on this page since the new year, I was rather concerned to discover last week that six out of the eight headlines included the word "Europe". I was therefore determined to move on to another subject this week.

single currency

But writing for a daily newspaper means responding to the flow of daily events - and yesterday there was an event in London that I could not ignore. This was the launch of a. new campaigning and re-search organisation called New Europe. The purpose of New Europe is to offer a posi-tive, economically coherent and politically open-minded argument for Britain to remain a fully committed member of the European Union. while retaining its monetary and economic independence as a non-member of the eurozone. I naturally welcome the creation of New Europe, since its analysis coincides exactly with the one that I have pre-sented since I joined The Times nearly nine years ago. But I must confess to two even more selfish reasons for inflicting on the column's readers. the seventh article on Europe in nine weeks.

My first selfish reason is simoly that I was involved with Lord Owen and others in hatching the idea of New Europe: I had long been convinced that a group of respected centrist businessmen, economists and other public personalities with impeccably pro-European credentials could be assembled to present a persuasive case against Britain joining the single currency and, just as importantly, to demonstrate that opposition to joining EMU could he based on economic realism and geopolitical rationalism. not on tub-thumping nationalism, imperial nostalgia or

right-wing xenophobia. My second selfish reason for. writing about the launch of New Europe is that it gives me an easy chance to respond to the many letters and e-mails that I have received of late, all with the same two demands: declare, once and for all, whether you are for or against Eurone; and if you think that Britain should stay in the EU but outside EMU, please explain how a country can continue in

this semi-detached state. I now have an easy answer to both these questions. I can simply direct readers to the ten-page "statement of general principles" published by New Europe. This statement covers precisely the questions posed by so many readers and offers answers as good as any I have seen. It is obtainable either from New Europe's website. www.new-europe.co.uk, or democratic legitimacy and from its physical address: 52 mature political structures to



Walnut Tree Walk, London, SEII 6DN, 0171-582 1001. Having said this, let me answer more directly the two ques-

Am I for or against Europe? The answer is that I strongly support Britain's involvement not only in the EU and the single market, but also in several other forums of European integration, including the European Court of Human Rights and Nato. In fact, there are several areas in which i would support much closer ingeration than the Govern-ment. For example, I would like to see Britain abandon its border controls as part of the Schengen agreement, to aboiish the absurd quarantine laws, to join the European time zone and to stop the tan-

trums about "getting back our money" in EU budget debates. I do not believe; however, that all plans for closer European integration are ipso facto desirable for their own sake. And I do not accept that all efforts at greater European cooperation should be undertaken within the political struc-ture of the EU. I believe, for example, that the EU lacks the

send soldiers into war. What has all this to do with economic and monetary union? Monetary policy, taxation and public spending are, in my view, areas of national sovereignty every bit as important as foreign policy and defence. In these economic areas, just as in foreign policy and defence, the EU lacks the political legitimacy and the practical competence to justify an abandon-ment of national sovereignty. To say this is not to oppose any pooling of national sovereign-ty in economic matters under any circumstances.

ust as Nato represents a partial pooling of national military power, so the single market and the EU already represents a substantial pooling of national economic sovereignty. The rational argument of those who oppose EMU is not that they reject any pooling of economic sovereignty!— as Tony Blair disbonestly claimed last week. It is simply that ceding control over monetary decisions to the European Central Bank is a bridge much too far, at least under the present constitutional arrangements in Europe. "Under the present constitu-

tional arrangements" may sound like a weasel phrase, designed to allow me to slide out of my opposition to EMU (an event which will be triggered, in the opinion of many of my abusive correspondents, the moment that I receive the relevant directive from Rupert Murdoch). But for me the constitutional position in Europe goes to the heart of the matter.

I believe that EMU will only

succeed for the continental countries if it gradually leads to a full-scale political unification: the creation of a United States of Europe, about as closely integrated as the USA. Whether Britain should participate in such a United States of Europe would depend, for me, on two questions. What is the USE's political constitution - is it essentially a democracy or a bureaucracy? And what are Britain's prospects as an independent nation outside

the USE? The first question, about what kind of political Europe will be created as the natural corollary of EMU, cannot begin to be answered or even de-bated in Britain because all our "pro-European" politi-cians categorically deny that there is any proposect of creat-

ing a USE. If this is true, then Britain should stay out of EMU, because monetary uni-on can only work in the con-text of much deeper political in-tegration. If, on the other hand, Europe really is moving towards political integration, then that is the fundamental issue that Britain's politicians ought to debate. In that case Britain should surely not join EMU on the basis of the Gov ernment's false prospectus that this is a purely economic decision. Either way, whether Mr Blair's pretence that EMU has nothing to do with consti-tutional issues is mendacious or merely blinkered, joining EMU on the basis of this poli-

cy must surely be wrong.

As for the second question about Britain's ability to survive as an independent economy - I think the answer is even more clear-cut. I am convinced that Britain can prosper as an independent nation, within the EU but outside EMU. In economic policy, we now have a successful arrangement for dividing the responsibility for monetary and fiscal policy between the Treasury and a Bank of England that is operationally independent but politically accountable to the Government. Until and unless this arrangement is found wanting, there is no reason to suppose that Britain, which is the world's fifth-largest economy and now its fourth-largest monetary power, should benefit from ceding control to the European Central Bank.

ut what about the broader issue of Brit-ain's relationship with Europe? Won't Britain lose influence in Eurone? Won't Europe take its revenge on a semi-detached Britain by stacking the rules of the single market against it or even expelling it from the EU? I think that such fears are entirely unfounded. Not only do the European treaties provide Britain with a good deal of reassurance, but there is a much more powerful reason why Britain will be treated with respect by the rest of Europe.

To trade freely and co-operate with Britain is as much in Europe's interest as it is in ours. Britain is now easily the most important single trading partner of the newly merged euroland. In fact, euroland does as much trade with Britain as it does with America and Japan put together. Furthermore. European companies are much bieger investors in Britain than the Japanese. For euro-land to punish Britain for staying out of EMU would be cutting off its nose to spite its face.

I can only imagine one situation in which euroland would even be tempted to consider such a policy of cutting off its nose to spite its face. If the British economy were performing extremely well, while the euroland economy were suffering an economic disaster, Britain's independent success might become a source of embarrassment. So perhaps Britain should join EMU to avoid embarrassing euroland if it does too well. Is that what Tony

Blair really believes? anatole.kaletsky@the-times.

Airborne Canary leaves ruins of the tower in its wake

A s if Dennis Tunnicliffe, chief executive of London Underground, did not have enough on his plate, there is now the tricky question of the rent on his office at Canary Wharf. Back in the recession, London Underground (LUL) took office space at Ca-nary Wharf. It was a gesture of support for the project in which LUL and the Government had both a political and financial stake, building the Jubilee Line extension and lending a hand to a project which had the blessing of no less a person than Margaret Thatcher.

LUL signed a lease at the end of 1993 on a 283,000 sq ft office block at just £12 per square foot, a mere bagatelle of a rent that reflected recession and the insolvency of the landlord. It also spoke eloquently of the fact that no one wanted to work in a windswept and isolated colony of office towers in Docklands.

A lot has changed in five years and LUL will pay the price, not just in cost over-runs on the Jubilee Line but on the rent review on its lease at Canary Wharf. Mr Tunnicliffe will soon have to warn his boss, the Deputy Prime Minister, John Prescott, that the rent on LUL's corporate headquarters could more than double, from £3.4 million to £7.4 million.

LUL is just the beginning; it is payday for the once-improvident Canary. Tenants who struck deals at rents in midteens five years ago will be wor-ried to hear that Salomon Smith Barney has agreed a rent in the mid-thirties. Canary Wharf is reaping the rewards of its former dependence on government five years down the road. Government support could not protect the company from ruin but, half a decade later, it has become a viable property business attracting tenants at market rents. The unintended twist in the tale is that the taxpaver is subsidising the profits of a commercial business to the tune of £400 million more than a dec-

ade after it was first mooted. To be fair, Canary Wharf would never have happened without the Enterprise Zone Allowance. When the Canadian Reichmann brothers took over the Canary Wharf project in 1987 from G Ware Travelstead, the American developer, it had been given the thumbs down by the City as well as civil servants in the Department of the Environment who regarded Docklands as beyond the pale.

The Reichmanns had a vision, a development of North American scale in Europe's fi-nancial capital, akin to the brothers' world financial cen-tre in New York. They had cap-ital and they courted the peo-ple that mattered. Mrs Thatcher, then Prime Minister, was photographed in the cab of a JCB as the contractors broke ground on the site.

Unfortunately, for the Reichmanns, they had less influence over another power broker the Corporation of the City of London. The City fathers refused to countenance a shift of the financial power base to the left-wing council of Tower Hamlets. So they unleashed a tide of competing office devel-opment and the flood not only put the Wharf under water but drowned several developers.

The cost of tenant inducements and slow lettings proved a drain on the Reichmanns' empire, Olympia & York (O&Y), but the financial cataclysm that hit

Five years on, the Docklands

development has become a viable business, writes **Carl Mortished**

New York, where holders of O&Y's commercial paper re-fused to roll over their investment. That triggered a sudden re-quirement for \$400 million (£250 million) which could not be met. There followed a saga of banks seizing the assets, administration and, eventually, rebirth as Paul Reichmann bought his way back into the development for £800 million in 1995, helped by Prince al-Walid bin Talal of Saudi Arabia,

Canary Wharf originated in

CNA and Franklin Mutual Mr Reichmann's determination might look like obsession to those unfamiliar with Docklands. But five years ago, the administrators did the right thing, protecting Canary Wharf from a receivership which would have extinguished the attraction of the asset. Under the Enterprise Zone scheme, developers benefited from 100 per cent capital allowances; the full cost of putting

up the building could be offset against the developer's tax bill. When Mr Reichmann bought back the the development, he picked up a dowry of allowances and tex losses worth hundreds of millions of pounds, to protect the compa-ny from the Inland Revenue. Meanwhile, things are going right at the Wharf. There

is a bustle about the place, the footfall that is generated by 4.7 million square feet of fully let offices. CSFB is buying another half million square feet and HSBC is building a tower of one million square feet.

The bigger prize is to the east - in the shadow of the tower of One Canada Square lie deep foundations waiting for steel frames. According to George Iacobescu, chief executive, there are five million square feet of potential offices and shops with planning permits.

This is a new. North American style of property development You want a building? How big? How many offices, trading floors, lavatories? When do you need it?" Mr Iacobescu reckons the

City cannot compete. "I looked at the design for Plantation House ja City development]. What happens if someone wants 700,000 square feet instead of 500,000 square feet?" But could it all have happened without the lure of a massive fiscal holiday? Probably not, but that was another time and another Government. Today, the stock market is being offered a £2.6 billion tax-transparent real estate bet on the success of London as a financial centre over the next ten years. It looks plausible;

the Canary is definitely



Canary Wharf has begun to attract tenants at market rents

Nice one Cyril

CYRIL STEIN, the legendary former Ladbroke boss, phones me from his sickhed — a touch of the lurgy, apparently — to deny suggestions that he is poised to cash in his chips at the plush St James's Club, just off Picca-

dilly.

There is no truth in it," he booms. There was a rumour flying around the last few weeks - and we do get approaches, of course, including one very recently - but there are no nego-

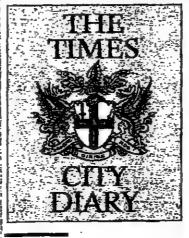


When Stein acquired the club from the ill-fated Queens Moat Houses in 1994 for £6 million, he spent £3 million refurbishing it and talked boldly of opening St James's Clubs in cities all over the world (Peter de Savary. its cigar-chomping founding father, once made similar boasts before sail-

ing off into the sunset).
Stein assures me he is still keen on the idea of a chain of St James's Clubs, and claims to be eyeing possi-ble sites in New York. But for the time being he says he is "enjoying making money for myself, rather than for 70,000 shareholders".

so how, I inquire, did the sale rumour start? "It might have been
when the managing director of
Cliveden came to see me at the club,"
Stein opines. "But if I was going to do
any deal I certainly wouldn't discuss it at the club."

SIR DAVID WHITE, the chairman of Mansfield Brewery, has been kind enough to send me a bottle of the company's Millennium Ale - an atcompany's Mutennium Ate—an al-tractively packaged, limited-edition brew that is "designed to be drunk on New Year's Eve 1999". A word of cau-tion to any would-be imbibers among you. At 8.5 per cent ABV, any



That isn't

THE dreaded image consultants have been up to their tricks again. SEC Group, the financial services provider, announced yesterday that it is to change its name to i.e. group pic. You may well ask. Sadly, the new identity has nothing to do with the Latin id est, but rather stands for "integrity" and "expertise" (qualities one automatically associates with financial advisers).

According to the blurb, the new name enables the group to offer "a unique, seamless and holistic approach to financial advisory servic-Stein: happily making money for seeing in the new millennium in a Contract. I am told that the name i.e. himself instead of shareholders waking state. es", and is designed to get away from

firm's "innovativeness" (sic). The only consolation is that the name change is subject to shareholder approval. If investors have any sense, they will vote against it.

Sad note

I WAS sorry to hear that ill-health has forced Michael Morley to retire early as chairman of Close Brothers. Morley, who is a gifted pianist, is one of those rare men who have worked in both industry and finance.

Although he was involved with Close Brothers from its earliest days, including a spell under the ownership of Consolidated Goldfields, he left banking in the 1980s and founded a specialist engineer called Paragon. which was eventually bought out by Portals, the banknote maker. He finally resurfaced for a second spell as chairman of Close Brothers in 1995.

Rod Kent, Close's managing director, says: "He's one of the very few merchant bankers who have also been merchants. He's also the only man I know who's been chairman of the same bank twice."

In flames

ON FRIDAY night, a colleague popped into Nam Long, the Knightsbaidge cocktail bar beloved of James Archer and his fellow Flaming Ferraris. Sadly, Lord Archer's son and his from which the band drew their name - a £13 mix of spirits that is set alight and drunk through a straw the Ferraris are understood to have switched to less potent drinks before their alleged trading misdeeds came to light. A portent of things to come?

IN ITS third-quarter report, Ionica says it "does not believe that its operations will be materially affected by Year 2000 compliance matters. Quite so. The telephone company's network was closed down at the weekend following its ignominious col-lapse into administration.

DOMINIC WALSH



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on service...

...and value for money.

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Billiton guarded on bleak outlook

By Paul Armstrong

BILLITON has joined the growing band of international mineral mining companies to give warning that market conditions for natural resources could get worse before they

Brian Gilbertson, chairman, said yesterday that the possibility of further falls in commodity prices remained. though he believed they were "pretty close" to the bottom of

"I don't want to sound overly bullish and say things will turn around because it is still pretty tough," Mr Gilbert-

"We are keeping the hatches down and we are running the business on the basis that it will be difficult."

He was speaking after the South African-based mining group and FTSE 100 company, unveiled a 34 per cent plunge in attributable profit to \$165 million (£103 million) for the first profit to \$165 million (£103 million) for the first profit to \$165 million (£103 million) for the first plunge in attributable profit to \$165 million (£103 million) for the first plunge in attributable profit to \$165 million (£103 million) for the first plunge in attributable profit to \$165 million (£103 million) for the first plunge in attributable profit plun million) for the six months to

The result, which was at the top end of market expectations, would have been significantly worse had it not been for a cut in aluminium production costs and exchange rate

Billiton's thences were very similar to those expressed last week by its industry counter-part Rio Tinto, which also gave warning of a bleak outlook.

Rio restricted the fall in its pre-tax profit to 6 per cent in 1998 but said shareholders should not expect such a favourable outcome this

year. The company said that production levels and sales volumes were either maintained or increased slightly across all its operations.

Billiton ploughed \$1.5 bil-tion into acquisitions in the period, including a buyout of the minority shareholders in the Australian-based nickel

It said this left it with a war chest of almost \$2 billion, which comprised \$685 million cash and the company's remaining \$1.26 billion debt

But analysts said it was unlikely Billiton could fund a significant purchase, despite its conservative gearing level of 22 per cent.

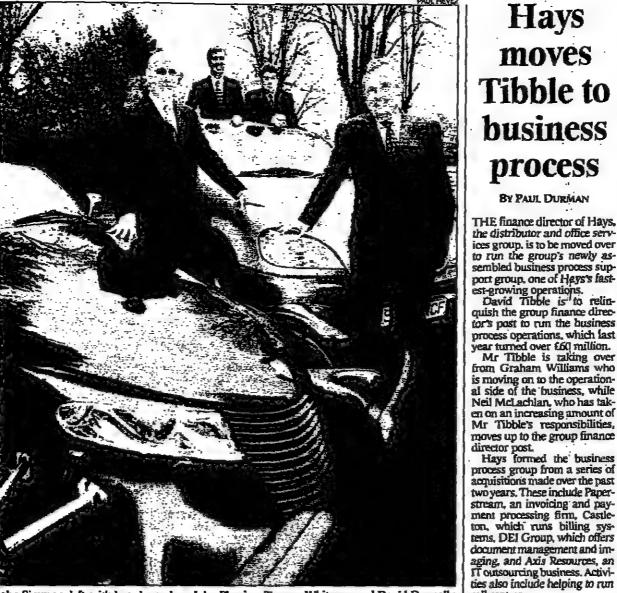
They also gave warning that would almost certainly fail to find any further substantial

"There are not a lot of areas for fat to come out," one analyst said. "It is a matter of sitting tight until the market turns."

Billiton shares, which are quoted on the London and Johannesburg stock ex-changes, fell from a high of 1861/2p last May to a low of 98%p in August

The interim dividend is to remain steady at 3.5 cents. The stock closed Ip lower yesterday at 1341/2p.

The portion of Billiton shares held on the London register has jumped to 51 per cent from 37 per cent at June 30 last year.



John Simpson, left, with board members John Fleming, Terence Whitmore and David Donnelly

Mayflower set for US

MAYFLOWER, the bus and car bodies group, is expected to announce the fine detail of a link with Mercedes Benz in America this month (Adam

Jones writes). Mayflower, whose chief executive is John Simpson, said it is close to announcing its strategy for the US. where it wants to use its low-floor buses to break into a market where it has a negligible presence.

Last September, when it was engaged in a bid battle for Dennis, the bus maker it now owns. Mayflower announced that it had an understanding with Daimler-Benz, the Mercedes holding compa-

ny, for future co-operation. Mayflower also said that it will not be unduly affected if Rover shuts down the factory at Longbridge in Birming-ham. Mayflower makes bodies at Coventry for the Rover MGF car that is assembled at Longbridge. However, the MGF would almost certainly

be moved to another Rover plant if Longbridge shut and Mayflower's supply contract

Mayflower announced fullear profits of £42.6 million before tax and goodwill, up 28 per cent on 1997. Earnings per share fell from 8.6p to 4.7p. Sales were up 26 per cent at £495.2 million. Capital cuts saw net debt fall to £280.7 million. A dividend of 2.2p has been declared, making a total of 3.3p (2.75p) for the year.

BUSINESS ROUNDUP

Hays

moves

Tibble to

business

process

BY PAUL DURMAN

THE finance director of Hays.

the distributor and office services group, is to be moved over to run the group's newly as-sembled business process sup-

port group, one of Hays's fastest-growing operations.

David Tibble is to relinquish the group finance direc-

tor's post to run the business

process operations, which last

year turned over £60 million. Mr Tibble is taking over from Graham Williams who

is moving on to the operational side of the business, while Neil McLachlan, who has taken on an increasing amount of

Mr Tibble's responsibilities,

moves up to the group finance

director post. Hays formed the business

process group from a series of acquisitions made over the past

two years. These include Paper-

stream, an invoicing and pay-

ment processing firm, Castle-ton, which runs billing sys-tems, DEI Group, which offers

Hays reported another set of strong results yesterday that showed pre-tax profits rising by 20 per cent to £110.4 million on

turnover of £377 million. It is increasing its interim dividend by

creased profits 30 per cent to

£41.6 million. Ronnie Frost,

chairman, reiterated his confi-dence that Britain is not facing

a recession. He said: "If any-

thing, there could be an im-

provement in the slowdown in

growth that's occurred over

the last six months. There are not problems that are big enough to affect the results of

16 per cent to 2p a share. The growth was led by the personnel division, which in-

Sage launches £78m bid for Tetra

SAGE GROUP has launched a £78.1 million recommended takeover bid for Tetra, a rival business and accounting software supplier. The offer of cash and shares values each Tetra share at 305p, a near-63 per cent premium over the price at which the shares traded before bid talks were made trublic in late language. Tetra disasters have given in made public in late January. Tetra directors have given irrevocable undertakings to accept the offer in respect of 21.7 per cent of the company. Tetra shares rose 42p to 286p while Sage fell 40p to £19.77½.

Sage said the acquisition would accelerate its development in the mid-market sector and would give rise to

cross-selling benefits. Yesterday Tetra announced operat-ing profits of £1.6 million before exceptional items and non-recurring costs for the six months to November 30, In its last full year the company, which came to the stock market in 1998, earned £3.4 million.

Perkins set to spend

PERKINS POODS, which returned £58 million cash to share-holders last year, may hand back more money and make further acquisitions. At the end of the year to December 31, the company had EI3 million of cash and about £60 million borrowing facilities, Ian Blackburn, chief executive, said. Pre-tax profit rose from £28 million to £55.1 million after the company made a profit of £33.6 million on the disposal of its fresh produce division. Diluted earnings per share rose from 9.7p to 29.7p and a final dividend of 2.85p (2.8p) will give a full-year payout of 4.65p (4.6p).

Danisco acquisition

DANISCO, the Danish food group, yesterday agreed to buy Cultor, the Finnish ingredients company, for DKr9.5 billion (1881 million), creating Europe's sixth-biggest food company. The new group, to be headquartered in Copenhagen, will retain the Danisco name. In sugar and sweeteners the enlarged Danisco will become the fourth-largest maker in Europe after Sudzucker of Germany, France's Eridania and British Sugar. It will leapfrog ICI Quest and Dutch-owned DSM Gist Bro-cades to become Europe's largest food ingredients maker.

D&G profits advance

DOMESTIC & GENERAL, the specialist domestic appliance breakdown insurer, saw pre-tax profit rise from £6.65 million to £7.3 million in the six months to December 31. Turnover was up 10.3 per cent to £49.7 million in a period that the company said had been one of "both stabil-ity and progress". Diluted earnings per share rose from 13.08p to 14.29p and the company will pay an interim divi-dend of 4p (3.5p). The shares fell back 5p to 598p yester-day, having recently touched a high of 620p.

Horace Small sells

HORACE SMALL APPAREL is raising £35.8 million through the sale of its North American clothing businesses. The disposal of Horace Small Holdings Corporation, announced yesterday, will trigger the payment of executive bonuses totalling \$600,000 (£375,000) to three senior directors of the subsidiary. In 1998 the US businesses earned operating profits of £900,000 on turnover of £72.1 million. The buyer is VF Workwear. Some £35 million on the balance sheet will be returned to shareholders. Horace Small shares rose 28p to 794p.

Pendragon cautious

PENDRAGON, the motor dealer, expects the new car market this year to be weaker than in 1998, although the outcome was difficult to predict because of the new system of two registration plate changes in March and September. The company, whose takeover of rival Evans Halshaw was completed last month, reported a rise in 1998 pre-tax profits to £18.66 million from £15.08 million in the previous 12 months. Earnings were unchanged at 21.2p a share. The total dividend rises to 12p a share from 10.7p, with a final 8p.

Dixon Motors ahead

DIXON MOTORS, the car retailer that is also the UK's largest retailer of motorcycles, reported a rise in 1998 pre-tax profits to £11 million from £8.7 million on turnover that rose to almost £638 million from £413.6 million. Paul Dixon, chief executive, said the company had made an encouraging start to the year, with like-for-like used car sales up 17 per cent and motorcycle sales up 29 per cent. A final 6p dividend lifts the total 20 per cent to 9p, payable from earnings that were little changed at 26.5p. against 26.3p. because of a higher tax rate.

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e Corporate Bond PEP

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6.1% pa tax free

An interest rate of





£300 million share buyback the Dow Jones on Wall Street. programme and the launch of John Sclater, the chairman, its own individual savings admitted a number of investaccount next month to boost ment failings including limitits flagging share price. ed exposure to the strong-The trust reported that at performing UK telecoms sector. He said F&C will be re-December 31 net assets had doubling its efforts to raise its

F&C puts faith

in buyback plan

BY ROBERT LEA

risen by 11.8 per cent to £2.39 billion or 227.41p a share. However, over the same period F&C's share price had risen by just 7.1 per cent to 1884p - a 17.2 per cent discount to net asset value.

FOREIGN & Colonial, the

largest general investment trust quoted in London, yester-

day said it is putting faith in a

Blame for the widening discount is attached to F&C's investment performance, which beat the 10.9 per cent growth

expanding our own marketing efforts and the launch of the Isa presents a particular op-portunity for us."

profile with investors: "We are

of the FTSE All-share index

but lagged behind the returns

from index-tracking funds

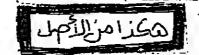
following the FTSE 100 and

F&C shares rose top to 195k/p. The dividend per share is up to 2.77p from 2.51p.

Tempus, page 30



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Muffins are perfect recipe for **Success**

By Henrietta Lake

new image, clever marketing and a booming snacking culture in the UK has turned into the perfect recipe for The Fabulous Bakin' Boys almost to double turnover in just over one year. The firm, based in Witney in

Oxfordshire, expects sales worth £10 million this year after rebranding its 40 varieties of muffins, flapjacks and cookies in 1997 and deciding to risk allocating 10 per cent of its turnover to marketing each

The Fabulous Bakin' Boys, a partnership between two brothers, Gary and Jon Frank, and husband and wife team Andrew and Sara Staples, now has a staff of 72 but started in very different circumstances after the stock market crash of the late 1980s.

Having been on the dole for a year, Gary Frank, a former City trader, decided to set up the Delicious Donut Company with the help of the Government's enterprise scheme. Business was fine until the competition hotted up.

Mr Frank said: "Soon everyone was cashing in on the snacking craze; our doughnuts and muffins were being copied everywhere. We had to think of a way to set ourselves apart from the competition and appeal directly to the customer."

But this was not an easy task as the partners believed that a totally different style of marketing was needed in order to succeed and wanted to distance themselves from the way baked goods were trad-itionally sold using homely

So the partners hired a recruitment consultant to find a marketing manager and briefed a design agency to help them to rethink their product. The project cost £750,000 and was funded entirely through accumulated profits, on a turnover of just under £5 million in

months for the firm as numerous ideas from the design team were rejected. But then, with only a couple of months to go before the money ran out, the idea of the Fabulous Bakin' Boys, its logo, name and mission to bring "fun, in-novative, and tasty products to the consumer" was born.

"It was a lot of money for us to spend back then and we really thought we were running out of time, but in the end the payback has been huge," Mr Frank said.

Today the company has a new £2 million factory in Witney and the brothers can count the caterers Compass and Gardner Merchant, plus Boots, Morrisons, Budgens and British Airways among their clients.

Last month the Bakin' Boys decided to take their message to the streets and invested in ten liveried London taxis. They decided to plump for the taxis, which cost £50,000 for 12 months on the road, rather than 300 to 400 posters on the London Underground, for a month, at twice the price. Nick Brown, Agricul-ture Minister, even arrived at a recent trade fair in one of the new taxis. Another ten are on order for outside London.

The unorthodox approach seems to be paying off. In April and May this year a national press advertising campaign is planned to tie in the arrival, months ahead of schedule, of packs of individually wrapped Fabulous Bakin' Boys muffins in the supermarkets.



Online banking meets key needs

BY RICHARD COLWILL

TIME and money are the two things in shortest supply in most small firms, so the arrival of online banking, with lower charges and increased flexibility and speed, promises to bring real benefits.

About 10 per cent of small and medium-sized companies currently use online banking, but recent figures suggest that numbers are set to rise.

The most widespread online service is PC banking. which involves connecting a PC - via a modem - to a bank's mainframe computer. Most high street banks provide a PC banking service. Costs can vary, so it is worthwhile comparing set-up fees and the full range of charges.

BUSINESS BYTES

The Royal Bank of Scotland. whose fees are broadly in line with competitors, charges £10 a month, with no set-up fee. Transferring money between RBS accounts is free, but there is a 10p charge for trans-fers with another bank and for any Bacs payment. The

transfer takes two working

days. For same-day transfers

via Chaps, the charge is £6. The Co-operative Bank has a set-up fee of £100 plus VAT, and monthly charges are either £10 or £15, depending on the level of service required. Single transfers cost either 20p or 25p. Transfers between Co-operative Bank accounts are free. Making bulk Bacs

payments will cost an addimal £15 a month. Each transfer costs either 14p or 15p.

What you get for your mon-ey with online banking is upto-date information on account balances and recent entries, along with facilities such as making payment instructions and transfers between accounts. Downloading account information on to accounting software, such as Quicken or

Microsoft Money, is possible, but it is worthwhile checking the compatibility between what the bank provides and what you have installed in your PC. More complex services, such as arranging loans. still have to be done through

speaking to managers at the branch or by telephone.

However, soon some of these and other more complex transactions could be done on a computer via the Internet. Many of the high street banks are now involved in pilot projects to develop Internet-based online banking.

Internet banking avoids the restrictions of "closed" petworks and lets the user form multiple links to do business with banks, customers and suppliers. The Internet will make online banking simpler and more responsive to the demands of small business and, as in the US, charges should fall. Another advantsoftware can be ordered and downloaded instantly, rather

than being sent by the bank. Barclays Bank will, from today, offer an Internet connection with 5.000 companies and organisations nation-wide, including the inland Revenue. The service can be downloaded instantly from the Internet and a fund transfer will cost 45p. Barclays offers its Internet banking servof £20 and a fee of £15 a year.

CONTACTS

MatWest 0800 777883; Barday 0800 0000978; Royal Bank of Scotland 0345 165108; Co-operative Bank 0345 616616; Lloyds

Final chance to limit risk of Budget blues

ALTHOUGH it is billed as the Budget for Enterprise" and expected to have an overall positive impact on small firms. there are several steps that business owners can take to minimise any nasty shocks before Budget day next Tues-day (Henrietta Lake writes). Make sure that you do not

miss the boat by failing to capitalise on certain tax reliefs while they still exist. The main areas to tackle before March 9 concern possible changes to inheritance tax.

The first is business proper-ty tax relief. Many experts are predicting that it is likely to be reduced from 100 per cent to only 50 per cent, unless the shareholder has control of the company. It may also be ex-tended to exclude a wider variety of trades along the lines of the restrictions to the relief under the Enterprise Investment Scheme. In order not to lose out on the existing levels of relief, consult an accountant about setting up a discretion-

ary trust. Business owners wanting to make sure that they reap the maximum benefit from the current retirement relief allowance, before it is phased out as part of the reform of capital gains tax, may also want to take action over the next seven

days.
The Chancellor has stipulated that the relief will start to decrease from April 6, the start of the new tax year, but he may decide to bring this deadline forward to Budget day itself in order to guarantee revenue to the Treasury and discourage too many people from rushing to their accountants. Business owners not wishing to take the chance should crystailise gains now and make use of the full £250,000 relief by using a life interest trust. Mike Warburton, senior tax partner at Grant Thornton. the accountant, said: "We can't predict exactly what the Chan-cellor will do but making some changes before next week might be worth the trouble."

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IN BRIEF

Firms less

pessimistic

on economy

Independent businesses are

becoming less pessimistic about the economic climate, according to the 3i UK

Enterprise Barometer, The effect of falling interest rates appears to be restoring business confidence in firms

backed by 3i, the venture

capitalist. Although companies

are still operating in a tough

that conditions are improving

for starting up and expanding.

Eversheds, the law firm, is

warning businesses that the outsourcing time bomb is

ticking. It says that suppliers

agreements and consider the get-out clauses right at the

start of their relationship with

deals exploding in their face.

Baker Tilly, the manage-

ment consultant, and 3i, the

teamed up to offer a start-up

plainning to expand through

franchising. The package

includes feasibility studies,

setting up pilot operations

and management support supplied by Baker Tilly, while 3i provides the venture and

growth capital. For information call 0171-413 5212

venture capitalist, have

package for businesses

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359 June

Government puts small business first

THE Government is putting the needs of small business first in the most wide-ranging review of company law for 40

Last week the Department of Trade and Industry published its consultation document on company law reform seen by the smaller business community as a much-needed overhaul of the existing code designed by big business for big business".

The report concludes that legislation should be rewritten on a "think small first" basis, while retaining integrated legislation that provides for all.
When the new code is intro-

duced in 2001 it will have profound implications for every aspect of business life and may challenge many principles on which firms now run.

At the centre of the review is the concern on the part of Stephen Byers, Trade and Industry Secretary, to promote the competitiveness of British business. The report sets clear

Launch offers voice

for entrepreneurs

THE TIMES today launches a new weekly section for Britain's growing small and medium-sized firms.

In Business will be keeping in touch with the needs of its

readers, providing help, encouragement, ideas and information and a platform from which entrepreneurs can make their voices heard. Successive governments have pro-

claimed their determination to foster the enterprise culture;

successive governments have added to the burdens that can quash the most entrepreneurial spirit. In Business will make clear to the politicians and bureaucrats just what business people believe needs to be done to belp them grow

Each week, In Business will bring the news you need to

know, on technology, finance, export aid and employment

law. We will examine the secrets of successful companies

and the pitfalls that spelt failure for others. We want to

work for Britain's businesses. Please tell us how we can

the economy and provide the essential new jobs.

help by writing to or e-mailing In Business.

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all have been declined. It has now reached a level where a number of suitable markings would be considered from highly reputable companies offering appropriate products to this on-going productive list.

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as the considered making list. Only the most reputable of companies will be considered

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BUSINESS FOR SALE

objectives of minimising the complexity, and increasing the accessibility, of company law. It aims to make registration, in-corporation and growth easier for Britain's bosses and offer an attractive business environment to those overseas. Any increase in reporting burdens should fall on big companies, while smaller firms will be left

alone or even exempted.

The company law review, which is seeking opinion from a broad cross section of industry, is also examining models of company law developed in other countries, particularly those in Australia and New Zealand which have recently redrawn their own codes.

Andrew Davidson, a partner at Eversheds, the law firm, said: "We need to move away from the existing mish-mash of company law which ignores the changes of the last 100 years from e-commerce to the way people hold shares."

Nicholas Goulding, of the Fo-rum of Private Business, said:

."A distortion currently exists where companies are set up in a particular way to comply with the law rather than in the best interests of business and competition; for example, the structure of limited liability is holding businesses back. Many of the benefits of limited status have already been eroded by Government and big institu-tions and yet owner-managers still face all the excessive legislative burdens. The quid pro quo doesn't work any more." The Forum of Private Busi-

ness and the Federation of Small Businesses are both calling for a completely separate legal code for small firms. Almost every aspect of busi-

ness will be looked at in the review. Among some of the pro-posals being studied are the simplification of the law relating to company formation, accession, the maintenance of share capital and articles of association.

Key changes to issues in financial reporting such as the role, form and content of company accounts and even the speed at which they must be submitted are also expected. The ten-month gap between the end of a firm's financial year and the presentation of its accounts could be shortened to several months.

The role and nature of a firm's annual general meeting will be debated as well as the relationship between groups of firms, such as that between a holding company and its subsidiaries.

But, citing the example of directors' pay, Mr Davidson argues that it is important to be wary that the political ideas of the day do not become so embedded in the legislation that it becomes unworkable at a future date.

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Andrew Senior, who provides replica food for shop displays, has real worries about the cost of converting to the euro

Left in the lurch on euro

THREE in four businesses are demanding an end to uncertainty over the euro with a referendum before the next general election

More than 2,400 businesses took part in the Forum of Private Business ballot, with 72 per cent saying they wanted a referendum before the election, indicating that Tony Blair's National Changeover Plan will not convince them to commit funds to the euro without a guarantee that Britain

will adopt it.
Nick Goulding, of the For-um, said: "Regardless of whether the conditions for entry are right at present, an early decision on the principle would allow our members to plan with certainty."

Str Clive Thompson, President of the CBI, agreed, say-"What business still needs if it is to invest substan-

will not invest ahead of a date Entrepreneurs want a verdict before being set and a referendum result. "I expect to have to allothey pay out, says Henrietta Lake cate 2 per cent of my turnover

tially is an unequivocal com- five times the amount of premitment to British entry." Lloyds Bank says changing for the euro will cost every small business at least £2,000. Stephen Alambritis, of the Federation of Small Businesses. said: "The euro will cost

MESMEE

paring for the millennium bug, yet business is being told to prepare intensively."

Andrew Senior, of Replica Production Group, a model food maker that exports to France and Germany, says he

The EuroPlanner, a CD-Rom available from Business Links on 08456 010199, can also be downloaded from the Treasury's website at: www. curo.gov.uk.

tight," he said.

when margins are already

The Institute of Personnel and Development is running a series of employment law to preparations, which is a lot workshops entitled "Fairness at Work in the Millennium", starting on April 13. The tour will visit Manchester. Northampton, London,

Bristol, Glasgow, Basingstoke, Leeds and Edinburgh. The one-day workshop costs £395 plus £69.13 VAT. For information call 0181-263 3434.

Less red tape and a reform of business rates are top of the Budget wish-list for small firms, according to research released by Barciays Bank.

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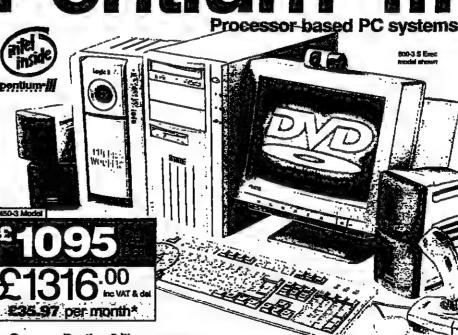
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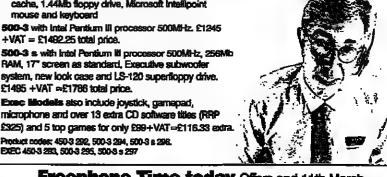
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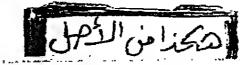


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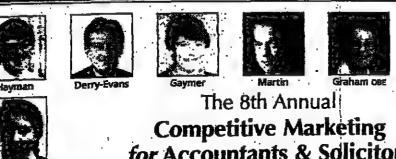
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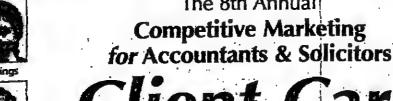
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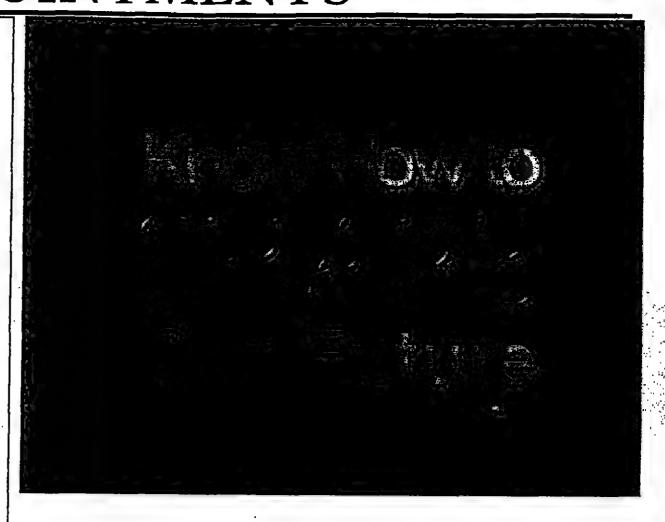
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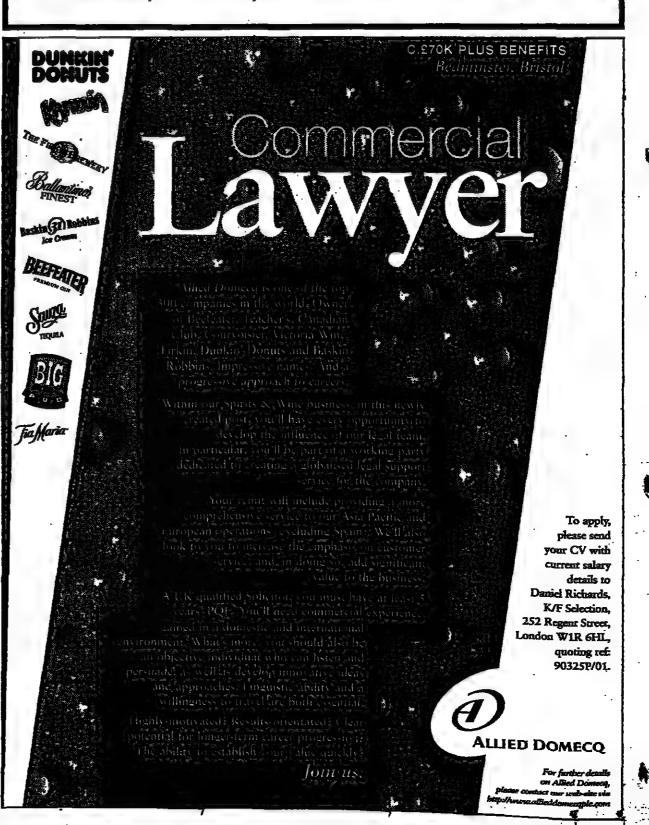
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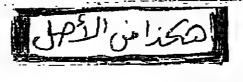
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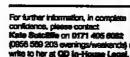
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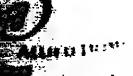
(b) manage a personal caseload of civil litigation work (mainly personal injury and damage to property cases); criminal prosecutions (and related appeals and judicial reviews) and other enforcement activity under fire

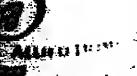
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London – overseas – industry

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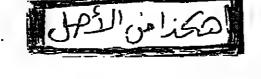


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Television formats and copyright protection

Who owns One Man and His Dog? Peter McInerney and David Rose

assess the rules

The BBC's decision to drop One Man and His Dog has raised hackles among the programme's devoted viewers and prompted several broadcasters, including BSkyB and Border Television, to explore the possibility of developing their own version.

To add to the controversy, the BBC announced that it owns the rights to the programme's format, which many might assume to be in the public domain. Consequently, any third party contemplating a programme with an identical or similar format would be obliged to pay the BBC.

Television format rights are an established commodity, but they are not recognised as such in English law. Significantly, copyright cannot protect concepts or ideas per se. It is only when they are expressed in a permanent form, for example in committing the format to writing or developing unique props or sets, that they can be given copyright protection as artistic works. Even if a format is expressed in writing, it can be difficult to protect by copyright unless it is scripted or at least capable of performance without reference to additional materials.

The late Hughie Green's failure to establish that the format of Opportunuity Knocks was protected by copyright in New Zealand is often cited. Nor was he able to prove that there had been any passing-off because his show had never been seen in that country.

are integral to the format, as with sitcoms and dramas. copyright will, in most cases, provide sufficient protection because it would be difficult to lift the storylines without infringing copyright in the Accordingly, when Granada decided to sell the format to its series Cracker, it licensed the right to use all its elements for the production of a new version which was broadcast worldwide as Fitz.

In the absence of copyright protection, broadcasters can protect format rights by other means. A confidentiality agreement will give some protection to a format creator, although



Robin Page and friend: can any television company run with the format of the BBC series he presents?

important players are unwilling to sign such documents. In the case of established formats, broadcasters can rely on the law of passing-off if they can prove that the viewing public is confused into believing that the new show is, in fact, the old show or has been licensed by the original owner. Passing-off is more likely

of the original programme have been reproduced intact. The title of any programme can be protected as a registered trademark, a policy the BBC has adopted for some of its popular shows, such as Radio 4's Just a Minute.

where the stars, sets and name

unable to prevent an advertis-Efforts have been made to give greater protection to foring agency from adopting a mat rights. In 1996 the Departsimilar approach for its Guinment of Trade and Industry isness commercial sued a consultative paper on the subject which met limited

interest. One of the principal

concerns was that the UK is a

net importer of formats and

therefore the new protections

were likely to benefit overseas

producers and broadcasters

rather than the domestic indus-

of format owners can be said

to have worsened as a result of

. Indeed, the legal position

Whether the BBC can do anything to prevent other television broadcasters from making a programme about sheepdog trials will depend on the BBC's existing legal rights and not any format rights as such. If no such rights exist, then the commercial rate for the format, at least from a legal point of view, is zero.

a recent case in which the own- The authors are a partner and solicitor respectively at the City law firm of SJ Berwin er of an original film entitled Joy featuring an innovative "jump-editing" technique was

WHO will take over as the top family law judge in England and Wales when Sir Stephen Brown retires in September? Bets are already being laid for the appointment which could see a woman holding the most segior judicial post yet. Lady Justice Butler-Sloss is

the most senior of the contenders, who include Lords Justices Swinton Thomas. Ward and Thorpe.

Of course, the choice could come from outside the Family Division judges. One

such name being bandied about is Lord Falconer of Thoroton, although sources close to the Lord Chancellor suggest that the Dome Minister remains an outsider for this judicial post.

☐ Olswang, the media law firm that represented nearly all the national newspa-pers in their fight against Jack Straw's injunction, may find itself in court again in pursuit of damages for the loss suffered by The Sunday Telegraph. which had to remove the story from later editions. Julia Palca, who led Olswang's team, says the Home Secretary's action was pointless, because "the matter was already in the publie domain". Mr Straw might be forced to justify on public interest grounds why he sought the injunction.

☐ The wheels of justice by tradition grind slowly. But the latest reform should

QUEEN'S COUNSEL

enter the record books for legal delays. The Lord Chancellor's Department

has just announced that from April. Knights-bridge Crown Court will be changing its name to Blackfriars Crown Court to reflect its present location. When did the court move from being around the corner from Harrods? Six

☐ City law firms have come out in favour of one-stop shopping. The City of London Law Society has replied in its submission to the Law Society consultation exercise that rules should be relaxed so that law

firms can become subsidiaries of other

professional-services firms, such as ac-☐ How can people find a good divorce lawyer? Hard on the heels of the Law Society's new family law panel of specialist solicitors comes another scheme, this time from the Solicitors' Family Law Association. More than 1,300 lawyers have

applied to join and the first accredited so-

☐ Solicitors are facing demands for tax they have already paid because the In-land Revenue is swamped with paperwork generated by the January 31 self-assessment deadline, says the accountancy firm Smith & Williamson. Colin Ives. a

licitors will be named in July.

partner, says that many tax statements sent out this week reflect underpayments although tax has been fully paid. "Watch out." he adds, "for the Revenue trying to impose non-negotiable interest penalties on any tax deemed not to have been held

by it after this month."

☐ A barrister specialising in informational technology work at the techie firm Tario Lyons has called on the Government to give businesses similar legislative protection to that enacted in Australia. A Millennium Compliance Bill is before Parliament, but without government backing, he says, it won't get far. "Every UK business could be a victim of year 2000 litigation instigated by US compa-nies, yet they are being denied a similar remedy against US companies."

☐ Judgments of the superior courts in Scotland will be put on the Internet. thanks to lobbying from the Society for Computers and the Law. The society's John Sibbald says that at last this will give "free access to this area of the law" and give the Scottish legal system a chance to compete in the global market for legal services.

The Solicitors Pro Bono Group has won a coup: it has persuaded the Attorney-General to encourage government lawyers to take up pro bono work. Keen lawyers will be put in touch with appropriate agencies. Details: 0171-929 5601

Steuart & Francis



Lessons of Lawrence

An open letter to the Prime Minister

he inquiry and the report into the murder of Stephen Lawrence make un-comfortable reading. As a lawyer and an ardent campaigner for equal rights, 1, as much as anyone, wish to see the system vindicated and show that, in the fullness of time, the system works for all.

However, the way in which the murder investigation of Stephen Lawrence was handled has severely undermined the confidence in our justice system and shaken public trust in the police. The facts do not reveal a reason to celebrate any victories. The inquiry report identifies myriad "fundamental errors in the investigation" marred by a combination of professional incompetence, institutional rac-ism and failure of leadership

by senior officers". The implications of the case continue to be felt. Only last week readers of one tabloid newspaper were offered large cash rewards for supplying evidence leading to the convic-tion of Stephen Lawrence's al-leged killers. Is it really acceptable to offer such rewards? Shock tactics of this type serve only to remind us of the depths to which this case has

finally brought us.

Given the findings of the report, it is astonishing that it took a new Government to establish the inquiry to examine the failures. We are all indebted to Neville and Doreen Law-

rence and their lawyers for their singleminded pursuit of justice against all the odds. They and Jack Straw, the Home Secretary, are to be congratulated for taking the bold and courageous step to establish this inquiry. However, the challenge now facing you, Prime Minister, is to ensure that the lessons learnt are enduring ones and that the po-litical will to tackle racism is sustained.

The investigation of the murder and the treatment of the Lawrence family were clear denials of their legitimate rights at a tragic time. This led to the great injustice of not recognising that the Lawrence family were themselves victims. There was a basic failure to recognise that racism is unacceptable behaviour in any domain — least of all in an in-stitution intended to serve the public, regardless of ethnic credentials.

Many police officers responsible have es-caped disciplinary actions because of technicalities and we are informed that they are now beyond reach. The case against those suspected of this beinous crime was never properly prepared and the suspects - other than in the failed private prosecution - contime to face trial only by media. In addition, Sir Paul Condon, the Metropolitan Police Commissioner, and senior officers failed soci-

ety as a whole by not using the internal inquiries to send a message against racism. They missed a golden opportunity to restore confidence in an institution so reliant on the trust of the general public to remain effective.

The Metropolitan Police Commissioner has decided to complete his term of office and use it to tackle racism in his force. His task is a difficult one. His challenge now is to restore both his personal credibility and the eroded reputation of his force on these issues within his remaining time in office. The need for him to deliver on both of these should not be underestimated.

This sad case is a classic example of Britain's failure to build equality into the main-stream culture of one of our

most important institutions: the police. Yet the police are not alone in this. The report's definition of institutional racism is welcome, as is the acknowledgement that it exists within many of this country's powerful organisations. One of my past roles as the

European Commission's representative on racism and xenophobia showed me that Britain has been in the lead on race relations compared with the Continent. The record has been tarnished. It is now up to you, Mr Blair, to put it right. You have a reputation for boldness and

"joined-up" thinking. I urge you to use both to tackle racism, not just within the police, but in all our institutions, whether it be education, welfare, the NHS or

Your package of proposals of change must not be a superficial one restricted to changes in the law. I know from my five years' experience at the Equal Opportunities Commission that what really needs to change is the culture. This can be done only by a combination of leadership, sustained commitment from the top, training and retraining, regular mon-itoring coupled with clear, decisive and repeated disciplinary action to establish and maintain racial equality as a core value.

Above all, those in these institutions must now listen and truly understand what it means to be denied your rights or opportunities just because you are a different colour.

Only then can Britain aspire again to be a beacon on race equality and can you be re-membered as a Prime Minister who truly made Britain a fairer, more equal society.

■ The author formerly chaired the Equal Opportu nities Commission and was the European Commis-sion's representative on racism and xenophobia 1994-97. She is now deputy vice-president of the Law Society, but the views expressed here are her



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INST. LONGOR = Z.2.20, NOW Most London practices talk of their alleged strength in projects work and how they intend to grow the practice into the mext decade - yet very few actually have the heavyweight client base to back that claim up. The City parmership is not simply jamping on the PPI bandwagou box geruinely has the quality and quantity of instructions to be a wantet leader. The real need for them is more top rate solicitors with PPI experience up to and including partners who know there is a difference between claiming to be a PPI specialist and actually being one!

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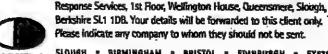
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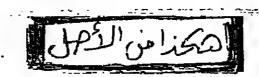
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THE TIMES LAW AWARDS 1998 with ONE ESSEX COURT

Access to justice: who pays?

First prize was awarded to Mike Thomas for his essay, below, on how high costs will hinder justice

he cost of civil justice excessive. In claims of between £12,500 and £25,000. average costs range from 40 to 95 per cent of the claim value and in lower value claims the costs consistently represent more than 100 per cent of the claim value. Disproporcionate costs are not only inefficient but also discriminate against those with fewer resources by deterring both the poor and the risk-averse from litigating. Making the ability to vindicate rights dependent upon wealth undermines equality before the law. The withdrawal of legal aid precipitates the problem of how the price of litigation undertaken by those with limited resources is to be paid, or more accurately "underwritten", since costs are payable only on defeat.

Conditional fees are the solution of Lord Irvine of Lairg, the Lord Chancellor, to the problem of funding access to justice. Under such an arrangement, the lawyer charges her client only if the case is won, and when cases are won a success fee is charged. However, even with conditional fees, the high costs payable in the event of a loss will continue to deter the poor and riskaverse from litigating.

On losing, the client remains liable for all of her opponent's costs and her own disbursements. The proposals that the client insures against these costs encounters the problem that in a system of high and unpredictable costs. insurance is commensurately expensive — it costs £8,000 to insure against bringing medical negligence claims to trial.

sate the lawyer for those cases that he loses. In our system, costs are high, relative to the claim, so any success fee recovered, capped at 25 per cent of the award, will be small relative to the costs incurred. If costs equal three quarters of the value of the claim, then a lawyer litigating similar claims must win three quarters of cases to "break even". Unless the costs of litigating

are reduced or lawyers are prepared to earn less, only very strong claims will obtain access to justice. Solicitors have already been advised that "conditional fee medical negligence work should not be touched with a bargepole". The acid test for conditional

fees is not whether they work in cases where the risk of nonrecovery is low (and the cost in Introducing a conditional fee system without reducing the cost of kilgation merely legal aid has been small), but



Winners: the overall victor was Mike Thomas, pictured between Lord Irvine, and Peter Stothard, Editor of The Times, and Anthony Grabiner, QC

transfers the problem of excessystem. The bottom line is profsive costs deterring litigation from plaintiffs to their lawyers it: the attractiveness of a case depends upon the potential fee and achieves nothing. The sucon success balanced against the risk of non-recovery and cess fee's function is to compenthe amount of investment necessary in bringing the claim.

In America it

seems that claims where success is not guaranteed are litigated but higher greater rewards. In our system lower awards make uncertain claims less attractive, especially those for smaller sums where the costs are increasing-

ly disproportionate. To increase damages is inefficient, so to facilitate access to justice we must decrease the cost of litigation. The hourly rate will con-

tinue alongside conditional fees. Defence lawyers have obvious difficulties in operating conditional fee arrangements and will continue to work on whether they can bring claims less certain of success into the hourly rates, as in America. Further, a plaintiff's ability to

come to court is fundamental to the rule of law and cannot be dependent upon her finding a lawyer prepared to work on a conditional fee basis. Justice is not concerned only with money; the vindication of

rights has its own

value. Actions where money is not Only very claimed - for example, applicastrong tions for judicial review or actions to claims compel due administration of a trust will be are less amenable to conditional taken on fees. The costs of litigation must there-fore be cut to ena-

ble those dependent on hourly fees to obtain access to justice. Conversely, only appropriate procedures must be allowed in order to prevent rich defendants gaining an unfair advantage by investing disproportionate amounts on an hourly rate while the plaintiff's lawyer is trying to work efficiently on a conditional fee basis.

The success fee compensates

lawyers for representing unsuccessful plaintiffs; as the new price of access to justice, it raises the question of who required by law. should ultimately pay it. If success fees are deducted from damages, then successful plaintiffs are subsidising ac-

cess to justice and the system is failing to provide full compensation and to protect rights tice in America. fully. The Lord Chancellor ac-The expansion of conditioncordingly proposes that suc-cess fees be recoverable as costs from the defendant.

One contrary argument is that if the plaintiff chooses to opt for a conditional fee arrangement through impecuniosity such losses are not recoverable. Nevertheless, the Lord Chancellor's proposal is preferable: wrongs give rise to a duty to make full compensation and the plaintiff should receive this provided he acts reasonably in bringing his action. Those defendants wrongfully denying liability and forcing the plaintiff to litigate to recover his due should have to pay for the steps the plaintiff must

reasonably take. Making

wrongdoers pay more also provides a greater deterrent to adhere to the norms of behaviour

Further, it is better to give plaintiffs full compensation explicitly than to achieve this by distorting the law of damages to take account of irrecoverable costs, as is apparently prac-

l fee arrangements is inevitable and is to be welcomed as it encourages efficiency in order to secure a reasonable return for time invested. However, conditional fees can only succeed in securing access to justice if the costs of litigation are reduced and conditional fees alone will not achieve this.

Until costs are reduced, many good cases will remain insufficiently attractive to be undertaken on a conditional fee basis, with the result that, where the taxpayer is unable to underwrite the price of access to justice, society will suffer the cost of individual rights and collective behavioural norms going unenforced.

Words of praise from Irvine

The big prizes and a special award: Frances Gibb reports

The success of legal re-forms in which lawyers can take on most disputes over money or damages on a "no win, no fee" basis depends on the cost of litigation being reduced, the Lord Chancelfor said last week.

Lord Irvine of Lairy was quoting from the winning essay in the 1998 Times Law Awards competition, written by Mike Thomas, a student at University College, Oxford Mr Tho-

mas won the top prize of £3,000 from more than 150 entries in the competition, held with the One Essex Court chambers of Anthony Grabiner, Lord Irvine

said that most of the shortlisted essays concentrated on how the availability of legal aid affected access to justice. But as the Minister responsible for delivering that access, he had to look at a broader picture, including the courts, judiciary and providers of legal services in the voluntary sector.

The Government's reforms went wider than legal aid. The first phase of its civil justice reform programme takes effect from April Lord Irvine said. These reforms will unity. simplify and speed up court procedures and protocols, to deliver justice directed towards the needs of court users." he added.

The reform was not just about a new set of rules. It

would mean a new culture, where "proportionality is the key to pursuing just dis-pute resolution". The reforms also demon-

strated how wider costs than legal aid were in-volved. "Judges have been working through a demanding programme of training, to enable them to fulfil their unprecedented new case management responsibilities."

Lord Irvine, who presented the prizes at a reception at Lincoln's Inn, head-Lord ed the judging team, which in-Irvine led duded Lord Browne-Wilkinson, the senior law lord, Mr judging Grabiner and Susanna Fitzger team ald, a member of his chambers

> and Peter Stothard, the Editor of The Times. The topic for essays in this year's competition was: Access to justice - who pays the price?

The second prize of £2,000 went to Sarah Palin, of West London, who is training to be a barrister at the Inns of Court School of Law, and the third prize of El,000 to Suzana Sava, a Romanian student studying law at the London School of Economics.

The three runners-up who received £250 each were David Lewis, Andrea Markham and Alastair Ladkin. A special prize of £100 was awarded to Rachael Levene, 17, a pupil at Nottingham High School

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Major City law firm is looking to expand its well respected Brussels office with the addition of a junior, mid-ranking and senior lawyer. The firm has an excellent reputation in the fields of EC and competition law reflected by its increasing workload and its current need to expand the office. A first rate opportunity for candidates wishing to relocate to Brussels, Ref. T.30321.N

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development of your department then this excellent City practice with a locus on commercial property is an attractive choice. Clients include major property institutions, companies, banks, developers and retailers. A following is necessary as an indication of market standing. Ref: T10273.L. This is one of the pre-eminent tirms in banking and international finance. Specialising in aviation, general finance and leasing (including tirm finance) the firm boasts a strong market presence in these fields, increased workload has now resulted in the need for a talented finance lawyer with at least four years POE. The firm offers the full scope of finance work and financial institutions. This is an excellent opportunity to expand your finance experience on an international scale. Ref. T.30238.K

Major City practice now seeks a key professional support lawyer to co-ordinate a major marketing and internal research role. You will be involved in both internal and external know-how, the creation of precedents, detailed research, as well as training issues and marketing to clients and cross setting within the firm. In return you should have at least three years POE in tax at a strong practice. You will require a high degree of commercial awareness but in return the opportunity to grow into the role is available. Ref: T30620.H

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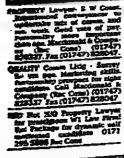
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For more information in complete confidence please contact Helen Bryant, Bryn Bowden or Tanja Förster (for private practice) Julian Stone or Sara El Kheir (for In-House) and Julia Martin (for Australia) on 0171 417 1400 or write to them (all qualified lewyers) at the London office of GARPIELD ROBERIS, 5 WORMWOOD STREET, LONDON ECZM 1RO. Call Evenings/Weekends 0410 546 589 Confidential Fax 0171 417 1444. Erreit: helenb@gartieldrobbins.co.uk





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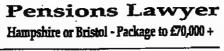
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RUGBY LEAGUE

Wakefield banking on survival

By Christopher Irvine

THEY were taking the flood-lights down at Belle Vue yesterfirst division colleagues and the Rugby Football League (RFL). Wakefield are at a furday, which looked an ominous ther disadvantage. As things sign, but it was to replace dud stand, they will receive no tele bulbs. Crumbling terraces are being patched up and Wake-field Trinity Wildcats, who vision income from 2000 if they remain in the Super League, a situation that high qualify already as the biggest lights the difficulties associated with their promotion. mouthful in the JJB Super League, are as ready as they When the independent francan be for their re-entry to the

chise panel granted Waketop flight on Sunday.
The compromise of having field's application in November - their right after winning two nicknames sums up the problem of being caught twixt the 1998 first division championship — Super League clubs were not leaping for joy at the prospect of welcoming a club the old and new at Wakefield, a founding member of the Northern Union in 1895. Do where time had stood still. supporters shout for "Trinity", Wakefield's opening fixture is away to Castleford Tigers. "Wildcats" or plain old.
"Wakey? More worryingly. will there be a team to support The last time they met, at the

after what is widely seen as a height of the Super League make-or-break season? mergers debacle in 1995. Andy Kelly, the Wakefield Casileford won by a record 86-0. It was proposed at the time that Wakefield, Castlecoach and one of the few recognisable faces left after an overford and Featherstone Rovers haul that was designed to enshould amalgamate to form a sure competitiveness, is under no illusions. The first target team called Calder. It never has to be survival," he said. materialised Work on Wakefield's pro-"That's vital not only to the players and me as coach, but posed new 10,000-capacity stato the club's existence." Sainsdium at Ossett could start in bury's has faith. Yesterday, the August, but, as one club offisupermarket chain announced cial acknowledged, "relega-

tion would set us back two years". Wakefield would have

to bounce back immediately

and, by then, the Super

League could be a closed shop.

It places a huge burden on fin-

ishing higher than fourteenth.

such as Tony Kemp, signed from Leeds Rhinos, Kelly said:

'We've gone for depth of char-

acter. Players who aren't

averse to rolling their sleeves

up." That summed up the

Wildcats' Silk Cut Challenge

Cup exit on Sunday, "Consid-

ering Bradford walloped us by

60 points pre-season, we fought well for 70 minutes and

lost 26-8," Kelly said. "That's

progress in a short time. We'll

With experienced players

years in a £600,000 deal with a local shopping centre. Wakefield's fellow Super League clubs, who each receive £750.000 annually under their revised television contract, have left them to get by on £575,000 from their former

a joint sponsorship over two



Kelly: character

Throwing away a slice of history

David Powell on a rule change that threatens to erase the exploits of a cherished Olympian

enise Lewis may just win the hep tathlon championship in Seville this summer. She may even register the highest score of the year, just as she did in 1998, when she won European and Commonwealth titles. If she does, the golden girl of British sport will have more reason than most to stay up until midnight on December 31 to celebrate the millenni-

When the clock strikes 12, Lewis could be the new world record-holder for her event. Whether she would consider it worthy of celebration will depend on how she views the insensitive decision by the International Amateur Athletic Federation (IAAF) to wipe out Jackie Joyner-Kersee's existing world record at the end of the year.
This is not because, belated-

ly. Joyner-Kersee has been found guilty of any drugs of fence, in the manner of Ben Johnson. After Johnson failed a drugs test at the 1988 Olympic Games in Seoul, he was not only stripped of the 100 metres gold medal and world record, but, one year later, the IAAF erased the world record that he had set at the 1987 world championships. Joyn-er-Kersee's record is being dropped for no better reason than a minor alteration to the specifications of the women's iavelin.

This is not an unimportant world record, one of the many that are set today, forgotten tomorrow - it is one that was set at an Olympic Games 11 years ago by the most successful woman all-rounder the world has seen. "It is imprudent, although I suppose I could say idiotic, for track and field to remove from the record books one of its most cherished names," Craig Mashack, the executive director of USA Track and Field, the sport's governing body in the United States, said.

only improve." □ The Lincoln Financial The significance of the record was emphasised by Group is to continue its sponsorship of the Great Britain the attitude of American teleteam in the inaugural Tri-Navision at the time. The final tions tournament against Ausevent, the 800 metres, was tralia and New Zealand this scheduled to take place 15



Joyner-Kersee, one of the greatest Olympic competitors of them all, prepares to throw the javelin on her way to rewriting the record books at Seoul in 1988

minutes after NBC went off air, but the channel decided to stay with the action to see if Joyner-Kersee could create history. She duly delivered a score of 7,291 points.

Performances with the new javelin, with the centre of gravity moved three centimetres forward to allow more regular landings on the tip, will be kept from April 1. The best mark by December 31 will become the new world record from January 1, 2000. The change to the javelin is likely to reduce distances achieved by the best heptathletes by a mere three to four metres, a loss of 50 to 60 points. Had Joyner-Kersee been using the new javelin in Seoul, she would still have scored more than 7,200

As Richard Hymans, the joint-compiler of the IAAF book Progression of World Best Performances and Official IAAF World Records, said: "Quite clearly, there is no one around who can score over 7,000 points and yet somebody may be credited with a world record for an inferior performance." Lewis's British record is 6,736 points and, while 7,000 may soon be within range, 7,200 may be beyoud her this season.

Masback added: The way it is being seen by the American public is that here you have one of track and field's all-time greats and some bureaucrais in Monaco have chosen, for their own purpos-es, to make it so that she is not a world record-holder."

USA Track and Field is planning a protest to the lAAF and, to understand its indignation, think back to Daley Thompson. How Someone may be credited with a record for an inferior performance ?

would Great Britain have re-acted if the same had happened to him? "The bizarre thing here is that Daley Thompson's record was not expunged when the men's javein specification was changed in 1986. Hymans said. The only argument I can think they might use is that, in the case of ten events, the proportional effect on the score would be that bit less than on seven events, which is a weak argument." Hymans favours the less drastic measure of revising Joyner-Kersee's score by downgrading old javelin marks by 5 per cent.

obody disagrees with the need for the new-specification implement and the move has done the women's javelin, as a single event, a huge favour. Rarely these days does a woman manage to throw beyond 70 metres, while the world record stands at 80 metres. That mark, set by Petra Felke in 1988, is one of several left over from the era of instituionalised drug-taking in East

German sport. Furthermore, it is among the records that have prompted Professor Helmut Digel the German federation president, to set before the IAAF congress next summer a pro-posal calling for a clean slate on world records from January, 2000. Carl-Gustav Tollemar, chairman of the IAAR technical committee, said that no other world record changes were under discussion but insisted that the women's javelin had to be altered.

The 600g fjavelini lands flat and it is hard for the judges to malutain a fair competi tion." Tollemar said. "With the new javelin, the girls would not be able to break the world record. This makes it fair for today's girls."

But not fair for yesterday's girl. Joyner-Kersee finished second behind Lewis in the world rankings last year and has just retired. When she made that decision; little could she have imagined that her world record would go into retirement with her.

Athletes welcome English centres for elite

By JOHN GOODBODY

LEADING British compen-tors yesterday hailed the Gov-erument's launch of a £160 million regional network of sports facilities.

England will have ten cen-tres, plus one in Sheffield for sports medicine and research. to help realise a projected tally of 41 medals for Great Britain. including eight gold, at the 2004 Olympic Games. The ten English centres are: Bath. Southampton, Crystal Palace, Bisham Abbey, Bedford, Loughborough/Nottingham, Lilleshall, Sheffield, Manchester and Gateshead, Similar centres are being set up in other parts of the United Kingdom.

Paul Paimer, who won a swimming silver medal in the 400 metres freestyle at the Atlanta Games, is training aiready at Bath, where a train-ing village was opened in 1997. -He said: "Before, I was doing it despite the system, but at Bath the elite can get the necessary backing in physiology. psychology and sports medi-

The network will be linked to the world-class perform-ance programme, which has provided £30 million over the past 18 months to fund competitors. Speaking yesterday from Australia, where he is training, Darren Campbell, the European 100 metres champion, said: "The backing has enabled me to train full-time and helped me go the European championships last year in the

best shape I could be." The facilities, funded by the National Lottery, will allow competitors to train close to their homes, rather than many of them living at one enormous site, as had been envisaged by John Major, when he-

announced the scheme in 1995. However, the Conservative party said yesterday that the announcement was a "classic example of too little, too late". Peter Ainsworth, the Shadow Culture Secretary, said: "We are not hankering after the original vision. However, so much time has passed and the announcement will be of no value before the next Olympics. This is a national project to win gold medals. The Government has a key role to play, but there is no direction and leadership."

Bxc34

Nc5 e5

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Times yesterday, please call 0171-481 3377 between 9.30am-5pm up to Friday, March 5.

SHEEHAN on BRIDGE

By Robert Sheehan, bridge correspondent

In the United States they take the matter of masterpoints (those little pieces of paper you win when you do well in duplicate tournaments) rather more seriously than we do over here. Paul Soloway, one of the top American players, has recently achieved the notable milestone of 50,000 masterpoints, the first person in the history of the American game to do so. Soloway, a bridge professional, is an outstanding player and has recently started up a partnership with world num-ber one, Bob Hamman. So far everything they have touched has turned to gold and apparently Soloway has not yet learned Hamman's system.

Over the next three days I will feature some fine plays by

, cautius.					
Dealer	West	N-S ga	me	Teams	
	♣ J 16865 ♡ Q8 ○ A72 ♣ 82	# 3 0 10 2 0 K 10 4 A Q 12 N W S # A K K ♥ Q 9 4 4 J 6 5	863 1093 E	♠ Q97 ♥ J76543 ♦ J5 ♣ K7	
S	W	<i></i>	_ N	E	
	2	S (week)	Pass	3 S.	
3 NT	P	255	4 S	Pass .	
5 C	A	li Pass '			
, Cor	tract: Five (Jubs by Sou	ith. Lead	: two of clubs.	

The play in Five Clubs on a spade lead would be challenging. A careful declarer would draw trumps and then play off the hearts first in order to get a count of the side-suits. On this occasion he would discover that West had three diamonds to East's two and would thus play

West to hold the jack. Soloway actually got a trump lead, however, and this gave him an alternative line of play. Taking the view that the lead marked East with the king of clubs. Soloway rose with the ace

and eliminated both major suits before exiting with a second trump. East won his king of clubs and had to open up diamonds or concede a ruff and discard.

Even if East had had a trump to exit with after tak-ing his king. Soloway would have not been in a worse position than the other declarers - but a singleton trump is not often an attractive opening lead.

Robert Sheehan writes on

bridge Monday to Friday in Sport and in the Weekend section on Saturday.

WORD-WATCHING By Philip Howard

a. The Phoenician alphabet b. An extinct desert bird c. A sack

GABOON a. A small baboon b. A foresail

CHANGING TIMES

BURTON a. A hat b. Stowage of luggage c. A Western pistol GALERE

a. A kitchen range b. A coterre c. A breed of carthorse

KEENE on CHESS

Bh4

Bb5 Ne2 Be4 Nxd4

Nf5 Bh4 Ke2 Rhb1

Bd3 Nxh6+ Bd6 Rxb6

Roc6 e4 Ke3 Nf5+

Rb2

29

By RAYMOND KEENE CHESS CORRESPONDENT

Chasing pack

Garry Kasparov, the world champion, enjoys a half-point lead over the chasing pack of Anand and Kramnik in the elite tournament at Linares in Spain. Both of these fine players have now opened their scores with victories against Peter Svidler and Michael Adams. I give these games today. White Viswanathan Anand Black: Peter Svidler

Grunfeld Defence

Nc3 Qd1 ext7-h5 hxg6 Be3 Ng5 g4 Nce4 hvg6 875 R76 Be6 Bd5 Nxg7 Qh8-Rf1+

White: Vladimir Kramnik Black: Michael Adams Linares 1999 Nim20-Indian Defence

c4 Nc3

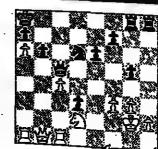
Nb1 Diagram of final position Anand-Svidler game

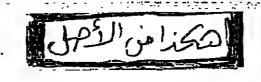
You can send me your queries. puzzles, problems and games direct by e-mail. The address is keenechessaol.com. The best contributions from Times readers will be published either here or in the Saturday Times

WINNING MOVE

By Raymond Keene

Black to play. This position is from the game Marzano — Van der Werf, Porto San Gior-gio 1998. White's pieces find themselves in a cluster on the queenside, well away from the defence of his king. Unsurprisingly. Black now delivered a quick checkmate. Can you see





South

RACING: BHB TO REVIEW WEIGHT-FOR-AGE ALLOWANCES FOR CHASERS

Youngsters face scales of justice

By CHRIS McGrath

of a special ramp over the fences and conveyor belts in between, it is hard to imagine how five-year-old chasers might be more grossly favoured than by the present weight-for-age scale.

There was an especially ridiculous example at Kempton on Saturday, when the Mistsubishi Shogun Pendil Novices' Chase was reduced to a mismatch by the 22lb that Makounji received from No Retreat, 9lb of which was supposed to compensate for her junior status. Yesterday, however, the British Horseracing Board (BHB) disclosed that such an exorbitant concession is unlikely to be available next

The problem has arisen because of an increasing vogue for French jumpers. Trainers tend to educate young horses with considerably more purpose over the Channel, ensuring that French imports are correspondingly more precocious than their indigenous rivals. The latter might well prove better off in terms of racecourse longevity, but to be-gin with the French novices can know too many tricks for

Martin Pipe, always one jump ahead, was first to spot the opportunity for French horses, making hay last sea-son with Cyfor Malta. This time he has excellent prospects of matching that horse's Cheltenham Festival success with Majadou, unbeaten on these shores, while Nicky Henderson, Makounji's trainer, is among those rivals to have registered the significance of

Pipe's success. The French factor has helped prompt a review of the whole National Hunt weightfor-age scale by Nigel Gray. the senior BHB handicapper.

SHORT of offering them use and Phil Smith, recently appointed to rate chasers. Paul Greeves, the BHB racing director, observed yesterday that no assumptions could be made about their recommendations, but acknowledged that there was a powerful impetus for

change.
"The dilemma remains." he said. "The idea is to encourage people to bring along store horses, to race their young, immature horses without breaking their hearts or backs. The problem is that horses in Britain and Ireland tend to be rather different from those coming out of France, where they tend to be already well raced.
"In setting a weight-for-age

scale, the question is how to take account of the form these horses have shown early in life without having a detrimental effect on the more traditional, slower maturing types. The high-profile example of horses like Makounji — who got all the allowances on Saturday, including the mares' allowance - is there for all to see, There is clearly a need to re-examine the scale before next season."

It is plainly unacceptable for a horse like No Retreat, second to Makounji on Saturday, to compete at such a ludicrous disadvantage. Steve Brookshaw, his trainer, must have been delighted that his New Zealand import managed to ac-company the mare into the straight and he will surely win good races restored to a level aying field.

Brookshaw has rather less cause for satisfaction, however, with Lord Gyllene. The 1997 Martell Grand National winner will miss the Cheltenham Festival after pulling a muscle at exercise, and may now be forced to limber up for Aintree by having a race over



Majadou, right, one of Pipe's French imports, will be a popular order at Cheltenham

RACING AHEAD Robert Wright the ante-post number

TOTE CHELTENHAM GOLD CUP Cheitenham, March 18 **GUIDE TO THE LEADING PRICES**

Florida Pearl Dorans Pride **Double Thriller** Unsinkable Boxer Suny Bay See More Bus Simply Dashing

THE Tote Cheitenham Gold Cup has been billed as a clash between Florida Pearl and Teeton Mill. However, as the past effy predicted, Florida Pearl, twice a Festival winner already, is clearly a The only slight reservation is his

Figure Pearl, twice a Festival winner already, is clearly a hoise of immense talent. The only slight reservation is his staimina, as he found less in the closing stages than had atmeared likely when beating Escartalizate in the Royal & Suntilliance Chase over a slightly shorter trip last year. Tector Mill has storted through the ranks since Joining Venetis Williams, winning the Harmassy and King George before having enough speed to cope with a shurter trip at Ascot last time. His defeat at the transfer of Double Thirlier is a hunter chase at Cheldmham last April, when he struggled upposition that the last state of the professional yard, moving to Paul Michaels from its owner. Reg Williams, but hung badly on last ground when beaten at Stratford last May. His alignoiders may be best to wait and see if the Cheltmham goog is suitable.

See Nore Business also trained by Nicholls, started second favourite in last years language but was forced of the track by Cytongo, who was pulled up early on. Winner of the King

Ottories, who was pulled up eatly on. Whinter of the king George last season, he has disappointed of late, but was unsuited by the slow early pace when third to Cyfor Maite. Cheltenham last time and connections believe that he failed to cope with heavy ground at Kempton on his penultimate start. Reportedly back in good form now, SEE MORE BUSINESS is over-priced at 25-1 with Hills and Ladbrokes and

YESTERDAY'S RESULTS

Newcastle

Going: soft (heavy in places) 2.00 (2m hole) 1, Patras (B Harding, 6-1); 2, Rawue (3-1), 3, Caus (4-1) Saymore (4th) 5-2 lay 20 ran, NF: Chevaller Errart, Datton Lady 114, 211, M Hammond Total (7.20, E4, 61,60, E2,60 DF, \$18.00, CSF, \$22.06

CSP: 522 bs
2-30 (2m 4) rh) 1, Weaver George (R McGrath, 5-1); 2, Meatre De Musique (4-1 ptan), 3, Pen Terner (10-1) Rachaers Owen-4-1 ptan 9 ran, NF. Constan Johns, Cross Cannon 111, 16, W Storey Tota, 57:00, 52:00, 51:70, 53:00, DF. 517-90, CSF 524 77 Thicast; 5179-75

3.00 (2m httle) 1, Western General (A Magura, 15-2), 2, Be Brave (5-1), 3, Durano (9-2 lav), 4, Court Joley (6-1), 19 ran NP Pnddy Far 2, 11-1 Mss K Milgan Tota: 210-80, 22-30, 21-60, 21-90, 23-10 DF 236-50 Taleda, \$188-00 CSF £44-60 Tra-Cast E184 83

2.30 (3m chi 1, Toni's Tip (A Maguire, 13-8 tov), 2, Last Option (5-1), 3, Master Wood (9-1) 8 ran NR Act The Wag, Gale Force 5, 44 F Murphy Tote, 13 8, 15 90, 11 40 DF £3.90 CSF £9.66 Tincast, £49.81

4.35 (2m 4f chi 1, Distanti Hillis (A Magune, 6-4 fav), 2, Up For Ransonio (7-2), 3, Oriaming Moss (33-1) 5 nan NR Dan de Man, Judeous Charles 18, 3-4, J Dodds Tote, 22 10, 21 10, 22 20 DF 12 20 CSF 15 19 505 (2m flat) 1, Wymyard Dentael (P Mwon, 2-1), 2, Shuldorid (5-1), 3, Lady Bustod (7-4 faw) 13 rom NR. Early Dossy, Fresodo Cut 6, hd, Mrs. M. Rowstey Tote 23 80, 21 40, 22 10, 21 10 DF 29 60 CSF:

Jeckpot: £15,842.70 (part won. Pool of £20,082.42 carried forward to Catterick

Plumpton

Going: soit (heavy in places) 2.29 (2m II hole) 1, Wise Gunner (A P Mc-Coy 11-2), 2, Ams Gal (13-8 lov) 3 Maylar Magac (11-2) 11 zm NPT Terrujan, Young Mazaud S, 14 M Pipe Tole (6 70 E 190, E1 10, £1 60 DF E8 70 CSF £14 19 2.50 (2m 41 hdke) 1. Polar Flight (1 Williamson, 1.2 tay) 2. The Red Ractor (6-1) 3. Gernstone (3-1) 13 tan NFI Akina. 5. 111 Mes V Williams Totle. £1 50, £1 10. £1 50. £1 30 DF £4 50 CSF £5 52

2.20 (3m 11 110yd ch) 1, Emerald State-ment (B Fenion, 2-1), 2, Woodlands Beau (5-1) 3, Edgo Ahaad (40-1) Strong Tel 4-5 (x) 4 km 8, dot C Gresell Toto £2 40 DF £3 40 CSF £10 09 on to select this Wallace (M Batchelo, 6-1), 2. Necton Doro (13-2), 3. Doctor Bravous (11-4 by) 7 ran. 4(& Julian Postor Toto Selector Se

CAP 123 32 CAP (A 25) (1,14 to 4,55 (2m 4) hole! 1, 8ty Term (A P McCoy 7-2) 2, Royal Rule (5-1) 3, Denyballe (9-2) Golden Lity 3-1 fav 7 ran 121 41 L Wells, Tote Cs 10 (22:50 £1:80 DF (8:50 CSF ETE 33.

Placepot: £245.30. Quadpot: £54.40. Southwell

Going: standard 1.40 (7) 1, Denbrue (Airs L. Poerce, 5-1), 2, Almochar (12-1), 3, Gadgo (6-1), Ring The Chiel (100-30 fav. 1) ran, 3, 13, J. Peerce Tote (28 10 52 50, 64 40, 52 00 DF 247 10 CSF, 280 51 Tricast (35) 73

2.10 (7) 1. Live Project (Mess Nicola Craggs. 5-1) 2. Awesome Vormoto (13-2), 3. Kosovo (6-1) Kass Affana 7-4 fav. 10 ran Hd. 1¹³ R. Craggs Toto 1530: 5200. 51 40, 51 40, DF 522 50 CSF, 632 57 To-cast, 5185 42 2.40 (1m) 1 trish Cream (T.G McLaughin, 1-16 (xv), 2. Sounds Lucky (10-1) 2 rat. 4 P Evans. Tote. £1 10

2.10 (1m) 1. Windshift (P Fazamoris, 4-1). 2. Magazi Srot (11-2) 3. Jibarean (9-2). Anonym (5th) 7-2 tov 8 ran 1 1 14 D Shaw Toty: C.3.0 C.1 40, C.1 40, C.1 70 DF (22) 30 CSF (22) 19 Incast (29) 15 2.40 (61 1, Niss Creiter (J Edmands, 9-2), 2. Nator (10-1), 3, Rock Island Line (5-1), Little (bm? -2 br. 11 tan 1), in la Baldring Totor 54 60; 51.50, 62.40, 51.20 DF 638 50 CSF £42 91 Tincast, £214 71 4.10 (tm 4f) 1, Linea-G (A Cultano 5-1) 2. Chalapon (11-4), 3 Hoathyanis Jako (evens lax) 6 ran. 5: 11 Mrs M Reycky Tote 55 70: £190. £110 DF £770 CSF. £16.87

4.45 (6f) 1 Stratts Quest (S. Whaworth, 4-1) 2, for Ago (11-1), 3, Chelus (7-2)-Rhi Romsey Hobe 7-2, R-lav. 11 ran. Hd. 2nl. D Arbathrot, Tote £5,60, £1,50, £3,60, £1,80 0F £28,00, £35-£45,73 Tricast £160,34 5.15 (1m 3) 1, Green Bopper (C Lowther, evens tav) 2, Swift (13-2), 3, Dick Turpin (4-1) 7 ran 3-1, 1-1 G Woodward Toto (1-80: C1.10, C3-50 OF \$6.60. CSF E7 30

CATTERICK

THUNDERER

2.00 Misconduct 2.30 Willyelkra 3.00 BANKER COUNT (nap) 5.00 Errand Boy

3.30 Connel's Croft 4.00 Highfield Gent 4.30 Minster Glory

TOTE JACKPOT MEETING

Timekeeper's top rating: 4.00 SHARDANTE.

GOING: GOOD TO FIRM

2.UU WENSLEY MARES ONLY NOVICES HANDICAP HURDLE

Ling bandcap: Altourjan 9-12. Singing Scally 9-10. Alt Our Blessings 9-10, Premiere Foulee 9-4.
BETTRICS 5-4 Misconduct, 18 Book To Busina. 5-1 Bit Despirado, 8-1 Alimbrigon, 10-1 Tangshan, Cruz Santa 1998: SPRINGFIELD RHYME 7-10-0 Mr S Durack (50-1) S Golleges (1 pag

My Despirado B 3rd of 20 to Chaf Wardange in novoce hunde at Novaca-tie (2m. good to soft), previously best Cohmaram 1-1 in 14-numer mares novoce funde at Catenia Cam, good) with Tangshan 11-16 better of 2-5 Sh and The Grey Bay (25th better of 18-7) 12m. Back to Bavaria 6-7 and of 11 to Peally Chaffed in Nonfaco hundle at Davitic (2m. honey). Chat Santa 19-7 in of 13 to Shannon Shoon in nonce handless hundle at Hundrington (2m. 110), so by Mesoporthost best Keny's Oct 2-11 of 16-numer nonce handless hundle at Shannon 11-10 to 10-11 in 1

MISCONDUCT was with drest authority last time and can fallow up

2.30 HARROGATE NOVICES HURDLE (E2.915: 2m) (15 runners)

SETTING: 7-4 Moving Arrow, 9-4 Et Go. 7-1 Willyellon, 10-1 Bancad, Meditium Park, Canadour Fankasy, 16-1 William gel, 25-1 others

1998: COURT KARBAUSKI 6-11-0 P Carbony (6-4 tax) F Musphy 10 ran

ES GO best Lead Dancer 1.3 in 9-variors nowce handle at Misselburgh.
Com, good) with Sweepyr (7th bethr eft) 244 4th Baward 57 1.2th of 15 to Macasard in marke handless handle at Sengeleid (2m 11 good) Willy-degra 201 9th of 30 in Good Lad on tendeduce handle at Centerchiann Chin Record Tendeducer handle at Centerchiann Chin Record Tendeducer handle at Sengeleid (2m 11 good) Willy-degra 201 9th of 30 in Good Lad on tendeducer handle at Centerchiann Chin Record Tendeducer at Sengeleid (2m 10 good to 30 in 10 good) at 30 in 10 good to 30 in 10 go ES GO could dely the weight in a race where a number have starring doubts

3.00 MALTON NOVICES CHASE (£2,980: 2m 3f) (14 runners)

301 13-301 CHARMOR ADMIRAL 8 (B.D.S); (the Spice Girst kin 4 Sentant 6-11-6 J Scopte 95
302 71-P22 BANGER COURT 24 (P) (this H Brown) M 19 Existe 97-11-2 . A P McCoy 1518
303 21-UPS ECHO'S OF DAWN 17 (5) (thicketom Pair Rating Voll J Lipson 7-11-2 R Supple 61
304 40-4P FAN D'ESTRUMA 59 (k) Option M Tochestre 6-11-2 . B Hardon 305
305 44-9P FAN D'ESTRUMA 59 (k) Option M Tochestre 6-11-2 . B Hardon 305
306 P0-00 MARCHART MARK 45 (S) (S) Miles V Halbides) H Hooarder 7-11-2 . P McGarmach 53
307 44-P0P MENIALD 75 (1 State J Wade 9-11-2 . B Morant 5-11-2 . B Morant 7-3 . B Moran BETTMER: 11-10 Banks Court, 11-4 Jesmite 7-2 Charmon; Actual; 14-1 Ornessown, 16-1 Edin's Ol Oswo TU-1 Bank Man, 25-1 Fan D'Estand; 33-1 chers 1998: ROYAL CRIMSON 7-11 2 R Carrety (8-1) 12 Harramond 9 ran

Chammeng Admiral Seal Baid Admar 3'-1 in 15-numen nowice choos at Calors (2n 44 110), d. heavy). Banker Court 51 Stud of 8 to Now Dec in nowocc choose at Friedrich (2m 44 110), d. poor (9 sold), preskursty nock 2m of 4 to Remaining Boy of nowocc choose at Granels (2m 50) with 110), d. poor (9 sold), preskursty nock 2m of 4 to Remaining 10 worse of the beats at 6 status 3 of Section 3 of 2m of 10 worse of 10 worse of the beats at 6 status 3 of Section 3 of 2m of 3 to Bankaryth Boy of nowocc choose at Maryachursh (2m 5), decept Diamedrator 47 1 of of 11 to Monocate Diamedrich (2m 5), good). Jessable 621 11th of 19 to Monocate of 10 of 10 poor 10 po BANKER COURT offer; little value but has pleaty to recurrend har

COURSE SPECIALISTS Ross TRAINERS

(4-1) 7 ran 3-1, 1-1 G Woodward Totor 180: 01.10, 23-50 OF 96:60. CSF 97-30 Cuadpot: \$13.70. Cuadpot: \$13.70

3.30 RIPON SELLING HANDICAP HURDLE (£2,262. 2m 3f) (21 runners)



Long kandicap: Peep O Day 9-13, Mai Orchel 9-13, Bishplace 9-12, Connel's Croft 9-12, Britanns Mrils 9-11, Dun-ston Heath 9-8, Lord Frederick 9-8, Real Fire 8-6, Members Wolconis 9-4, Arrange A Gerre 9-0 BETTING: 5-1 Claimbean, 6-1 Paisander, 7-1 King's Hosse, 6-1 Connel's Croit, 10-1 Working Fiyer, Kled Prince, Jago, Yilso, Peep O Car, 12-1 others.

1996: CRABBIES PRICE 5-10-17 B Guest (7-2 lav) Mrs 5 Smith 15 Ian Calraswan 241 5th of 14 to Our Strabridge in selling handcap hurdle at Towcaster (2m 54, soft) Wynbury Plyer 9-4 4th of 15 to Derennan in sell-netter of 381 7th Kind Prince 231 fbth of 17 to Regular Boncaster (2m 110/d, good) with Members Wickstone (18th before 0) 381 7th Kind Prince 231 fbth of 17 to Regular Boncaster (2m 110/d, good) of 8th Members Wickstone (18th Horvy), Palsander 77 3nd of 19 to Montakee Dance in selling handcard burdle at Caterion & Com 31 good) with Wynbury Plyer (1th wayse of) 7-4 oft and Real Fire (4th wayse of) 441 15th Jago polited up in handcap bardle at Wetherby (2m 41 10yd, linewy), periously loss Monta 31 of 1-revent selling handcap hurdle at Cateriot. (2m, soft) Fortune Hopper 37 7th of 13 to Forty (one in selling handcap hardcap hurdle at Cateriot. (2m, soft) for 14 to 15 do an majden horde at Cateriot. (2m, good to soft). Peop 0 for 11 to 15 to 15 do in More 4 majden horde at Cateriot. (2m, good to soft). Peop 0 for y 2 and of 5 to Nobel in 28thing handcap hurdle at Sedgefield (3m 31 110yd, good to soft) with Real Firm (1th ways off) a destance 5th.

4.00 BARTON NOVICES HANDICAP HURDLE

(£2,472: 3m 11 110yd) (16 runners) (E2, 472: 3m 11 110yd) (16 runners)

4/31) DONNEGALE 17 (B.CD.G.S) (S. Simon Green) T Tate 7-11-13 Mr J P McNemana (S)

501 #50531 I'M THE MAN 28 (D.F. G.S) (A Such) May 6 Stack 8-11-6 ... L. Cooper (7)

503 #50531 I'M THE MAN 28 (D.F. G.S) (A Such) May 6 Stack 8-11-6 ... L. Cooper (7)

504 #5-6 TPPMS 17 RNA 7; (D Bossy) w Storey 9-11-0 ... Mr A Dempsey (S)

505 #4-6 TPPMS 17 RNA 7; (D Bossy) w Storey 9-11-0 ... R McGreen

505 #4-1831 PCLAR (NOR 17 (R Roth C Boston 6 - 61-0 ... Mr Foster

507 *541-05 BRANCH 6ND 75 (F) (May 3 State) J Lumpo 6-10-12 ... R Storey

508 #524-4821 PCLAR (NOR 17 (R Roth C Boston 6 - 61-0 ... Mr Foster

509 509-4822 SHARDANTE 13 (N Bealen) J Lefterson 6-10-1 ... A Magnito

509 60005- PARTING THE WAYES 346 (3 McGrath) T Easterby 6-10-6 ... G Tormon

510 6546 FAR Rebash 49 (R Boston) W Clay 5-10-0 ... G Tormon

511 08-09 ROHNSON DAMOUR 60 (7 Boston 6 - 10-7 ... A Magnito

512 36440 C MANSON D'AMOUR 60 (7 Boston 6 - 10-0 ... N Normack (3)

514 66-900 ANNEY MATTER 21 Wades 7 10-0 ... N Normack (3)

515 04-500 BORRY MRSG 17 (Roth Wayer S) May 7 10-0 ... W Boston

516 00-000 CRELAYELL 348 (1 B Tam) 6 M Moore 6-10-0 ... W Dewley (3)

517 000 BARRING ROHN STORES (1 B Tam) 6 M Moore 6-10-0 ... W Dewley (3)

518 00-000 CRELAYELL 348 (1 B Tam) 6 M Moore 6-10-0 ... W Dewley (3)

519 00000 RESERVENCE ROHN STORES (1 B Tam) 6 M Moore 6-10-0 ... W Dewley (3)

510 00000 RESERVENCE ROHN STORES (1 B Tam) 6 M Moore 6-10-0 ... W Dewley (3)

511 00000 RESERVENCE ROHN STORES (1 B Tam) 6 M Moore 6-10-0 ... W Dewley (3)

512 30000 RESERVENCE ROHN STORES (1 B Tam) 6 M Moore 6-10-0 ... W Dewley (3)

513 00000 RESERVENCE ROHN STORES (1 B Tam) 6 M Moore 6-10-0 ... W Dewley (3)

514 00000 RESERVENCE ROHN STORES (1 B Tam) 6 M Moore 6-10-0 ... W Dewley (3)

515 0-4500 RESERVENCE ROHN STORES (1 B Tam) 6 M Moore 6-10-0 ... W BOSTORES (1 B Tam) 6 M Moore 6-10-0 ... W BOSTORES (1 B Tam) 6 M Moore 6-10-0 ... W BOSTORES (1 B Tam) 6 M Moore 6-10-0 ... W BOSTORES (1 B Tam) 6 M MOORE 6-10-0 ... W BOSTORES (1 B Tam) 6 M MOORE

Long handleter Boundstronour 9-11 Charson O'Anton 9-8, Highheld Gest 9-7, Angry Native 9-3, Bonny Rigg 3-2 Cecayell 8-12 BETTING, 9-2 Domnegale 5-1 Adec Phys., Standards 6-1 Fm The Man. 8-1 Blanch End 10-1 Polar King, Highfield. Geor. 12 T others. 1998: WHAT JOM WANTS 5-10-13 R McCraft (7-2 lav) J.J. O'Neill 11 rad

Domospate local Artisic Piyer (7th better off) 51 in 12-moner amount mounts in the control of th

SHARDANTE has a sound chance in a competitive current

4.30 GRETA BRIDGE HANDICAP CHASE (52,726: 2m) (7 runners) BETTING, 5-4 Marster Glory, 3-1 Goldon Helfo, 4-1 Taxts Clock, 11-2 Tapatich, 13-2 Plance Of Saints, 25-1 Arthur Gee

Golden Heito 7: 2nd of 6 to Valpete in handicap chase at Musselburgh (2n. pood). Prince Of Salats 61(9th of 40 to Estlementation in bandicap chase at Setgeted (2m 110,d, good). Talks Clock (61 2nd of 6 to Hay s Way in handicap chase at Castrick (2m 11 110,d, good). Minister Groy of 2nd of 8 to Count karmarsh in handicap chase at Castrick (2m 31, good) with Tapatich (3th better off) 281 7th.

1998: PRINCE OF SAIRTS 7 11-3 R Garrery (2-1 fee) M Hammond 5 ran

5.00 AYSGARTH INTERMEDIATE NATIONAL HUNT FLAT RACE

(£1,525: 2m) (16 runners) BETTRAC 5-2 Regal bizard, 11-4 between Eye 4-1 Errand Boy, 7-1 Supreme Forture, What A Topper 8-1 Steely Suspect, 20-7 One For AB, 33-1 others. 1998; PETERSEN HOUSE 4-10-10 T Hopp (11-4) G M Moore 9 can

Backing Charles 20 5th of 16 to Native Altair in patients than that race at Catherity 5m, count is fraid Boy Arthoss, getting out of Love Match.

Lucky Cambriel 35t 11th of 12 to Happy Hussar in reports hard fail race at Lucious Cm good to soft). Storeme Fortune 91-1 3rd of 17 to Entorine in reduced here for that fail race at Hericago Pan, heavy, heatand a Syste bad Regal Island into better off). If in 17-numer reactes not horn fail at Catherite Cm, soft with Cambriel Charles of 11th better off). If in 17-numer reactes not horn fail at Catherite Cm, soft with Cambriel Charles (11th better off) of 11th Viter A Tourier Francis in the Indication in Ripping fails and sweet American male. IRELANO'S EYE is taken to conform course and distance placings with Regal Island

3.20 SYSTON HANDICAP CHASE LEICESTER

2.20 Sister Gale. 2.50 Liver Bird. 3.20 Copper-hurst. 3.50 Samuel Wilderspin. 4.20 Strong Vision. 4.50 Boulevard Bay.

GOING: SOFT (HEAVY IN PLACES)

2.20 PICKWELL NOVICES HANDICAP CHASE (£3,496: 2m 4f 110yd) (11 nunners)

2.50 DRAGON HANDICAP CHASE

(£3,860: 2m 7f 110yd) (6) 1 3503 LIVER BIRD 33 (S) Miss V Williams 9-12-0 ... N Williamson — 2 5838 AZZIMAN 40 (G) & McCreat 7-11-1 ... E Humburd 5178 3-433 bt. 1581 24 (G) 1 Case 7-10-6 ... M. A Rizgerald 4 FIRE ROCKY PARK 33 (S) 6 82ding 13-10-7 8 Fenton 117 5 3F33 DADDY DANCER 14 Miss P Ford 8-10-4 ... 0 McCrtal (S) 10 6 -472 MADAM MUCK 11 (G) N forzin-Larkes 8-10-1 ... C Lievellyn 109 5-2 Liver Blad, 11-4 Madam Mack, 7-2 Rocky Park, 9-2 Jazzman, 6-1 others,

COURSE SPECIALISTS

TRANERS: Miss V Williams, 3 winners from 11 numers, 27.3%: N Twist on-Davies, 7 from 28, 25.0%, Miss H Nnight, 7 from 31, 22.6%. D Michal-son, 8 from 45, 17.6%. Only qualifiers. Sun, o nam 43, 17.54; (AV) Cabbota.

JOCKEYS: 6 Supple 3 winners from 9 rides, 33.34; M A Pitzgerald, 1/2 kam 53, 22.674. J Califoty, 5 from 24, 20.674. B Festion, 4 from 24, 16.7%, 14.00 May 1.00 May

(£3,214: 2m 4l 110yd) (7)

9-4 Red Bram, 3-1 Congestions), 7-2 Indian Run, 5-1 Flaspack Ltd, 7-1 Prevent Pertologon, 30-1 Brownstalt King, 35-1 Stage Player

3.50 RUTLAND WATER NOVICES CHASE

(£4,598: 2m 7t 110yd) (5) 1 -612 SAMUEL WILDERSPIN 31 (S) D Nicholson 7-11-4 R Johnson 23 - 3520 GREYTON 12 (S) H Rove 6-10-12 - 3520 GREYTON 12 (S) H Rove 6-10-12 - 3520 GREYTON 12 (S) H Rove 6-10-12 - 3520 GREATEN COMMUNICEN 14 (S) D Nicholson 7-10-12 G Bradey (1777 4 B3-3 SWMED CLEAN 14 (Casey 7-10-12 A Thompson 28 00 H HODOLEENOFCLUSS 682 N T-Daves 8-10-7 . C Llowellyn -

4.20 GREAT GLEN NOVICES CHASE (£2,924; 2m 4f 110yd) (5)

4-7 Reprences, 5-2 Strong Vision, 12-1 No Matter, 14-1 Ferrytoll, 30-1 Yelapa Prenet

4.50 OAKHAM HANDICAP CHASE (£3,548; 2m 1i) (6) 1 1431 CENTAUR EXPRESS 35 (CO.G.S) A Streeter 7-12-0 M A Rizgerald 113 2 14-P MUSIC PLEASE 108 (C.S.) 8 Proces 7-11-13
Wir H Ephgrave (7) 34
3 -436 COLONEL BLAZER 108 (BF.C.F.S.S.) Mcs N Major 7-11-6
78 4 P3P1 BOULEVARD BAY 14 (CD,C,S) Mrs P Robeston 8-11-0 9 (37) BURLEWARD SAT 19 (43),41,52) WE'R PROSESSE 5-11-0 J. A MCCENTRY 62 S 2212 NORTHERN SADDLER 1st (D.F.G.S) R Hodges 12-10-4 R. Johnson 112 R. SEAS ASTRAL BIVASION 15 (B.CD.G) T Well 8-10-0 . X Alzpuru (J) (TER

THICH ELD PARK

THUNDERER 2.10 Western Chief. 2.40 Bowcliffe Grange. 3.10 Mantles Princess. 3.40 Totom. 4.10 Harik. 4.40 Nautical Warning.

GOING: STANDARD DRAW: 5F-1M, LOW BEST SIS

2.10 SHAKESPEARE AMATEUR RIDERS HANDICAP (£2,697: 1m 5i) (13 runners) (22,09/: 1ml 5/) (13 runners)

1 240/ Western Chief 57/ (E.S.) D Wiksons 5-11-7 G Eddery (7) 10

2 3-40 DOUBLE FLIGHT 40 (7) Miss B Sanders 5-10-9

4 0011 SHANGHAI LL 12 (5) M F-Godley 7-10-1 ... M B-addey (5) 4

4 0011 SHANGHAI LL 12 (5) M F-Godley 7-10-1 ... Mrs S Bossley 3

5 -80 D BENTARDIA 19 Licitoze 49-10 ... Miss J Ross (7) 11

6 /461 BENNES 19 (B.CD) G L Monre 6-8-6 Mrs N Hose (7) 11

7 6500 FOREDANED 5 B Johnson 6-8-5 Mrs N Hose (7) 11

8 500/ SHEP STEALER 472 R PREDION 119-4 ... Mrs C PREDOOK (5) 7

10 500/ DAUBHMIN NYADER 13/ (B) D Wikisons 6-9-4 ... Mrs N Fisc (7) 11

10 4-06 XYLEM 32 (F.G.S.) J PREDO MISS 8 Miss B Fisher (7) 5

11 0005 ERIENI ACKET 19 (8) 8 O'Sulven 4-9-3 Miss B Fisher (7) 5

12 04-0 CATCHINENT 21 Mrs A Pernel 5-9-3 ... Mrs J Febrer 75-3

Mrs J Febrer 75-3 ... Mrs J Febrer 13-4 ... Mrs J Febrer 13

-5 STRONTENT III L L Biomet 2-1 Drafts Edder 11-10-10 fisher Mrs Proce 12-4

-2 Stengter Lii, 3-1 Bigneg, 7-1 Double Föglis, 10-1 Gee Ber Boy, Calcitysett, 12-1 Ionardia, Don't Drop Bordes, 16-1 others.

2.40 BOOK A BOX FOR THE WINTER DERBY HANDICAP (£2,533: 51) (7)

2-1 Half Tone 3-1 Squire Come, 5-1 Bouckiëte Grange, 6-1 Dande Times, 10-1 Glas-tonbury, Dancang Jack, 12-1 Phen Gaz. **COURSE SPECIALISTS**

TRANIÉRS: T Barron, 12 winters born 33 numers, 36 4%, J Farchave, 5 born 23, 21,7%, D Chaprass, 23 born 129 18,7%, B Hilts, 14 born 73, 18 7%; Mrs A Perrell, 5 born 27, 18,5%; G Lewer, 19 born 199, 16 0%, 10 CKETS: J Wester, 69 wenters born 319 udes, 21 6%; P born 199, 36 born 38, 21 7%; I Mongan, 3 born 15, 20 0%, N Peutad, 13 born 75, 17 3%, D McKetonn, 28 born 165, 17 0%, A Cultant, 20 born 121, 18,5%.

3.10 BOOKER FOODSERVICES EXTRAVAGANZA

1-) Centeri Express, 11-4 Colonel Blazer, 7-2 Northern Saddler, 6-1 Book 1-1 Askal Invasion, 20-1 Music Please

MAIDEN STAKES (£3.08): 1m 2f) (8) 4-5 Sheet Hastive, 4-1 Wild Nessle, 6-1 May Little Man, Manifes Princess, 12-1 others

3.40 LADBROKE (SHOWCASE HANDICAP AND

TOTE TRUFECTA RACE) (£7,165: 1m 2f) (14)

4.10 come to the winter derby handicap

(23,539: 2m) (6) 9-4 Siegue S.Ik. 11-4 Padaels, 7-2 Haris, 6-1 Husgill Dancer, 7-1 others.

4.40 WORDSWORTH CLASSIFIED STAKES

(£2,608: 1m) (7) 4-5 Compron Akia, 11-2 Casike Burning, 7-1 Kaulical Worning, 10-1 Zearn, 12-1 Missel Tricky, 14-1 Patry Stone, 25-1 Sassedo

RICHARD EVANS

Nap: COPPERHURST (3.20 Leicester) This mare ran well from a

prise with conditions in her favour today. Next best: Misconduct

(2.00 Catterick)

Hammond aim

MICKY HAMMOND plans to run his smart hurdler. Deep Water, in the Scottish Champi on Hurdle at Ayr next month. Deep Water made a belated reappearance when last of five to Midnight Legend at Sandown last month, and Hammond said: "He won't necessarily have another run before Ayr."

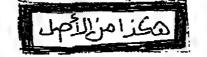
long way out of the handicap last time and can cause a sur-

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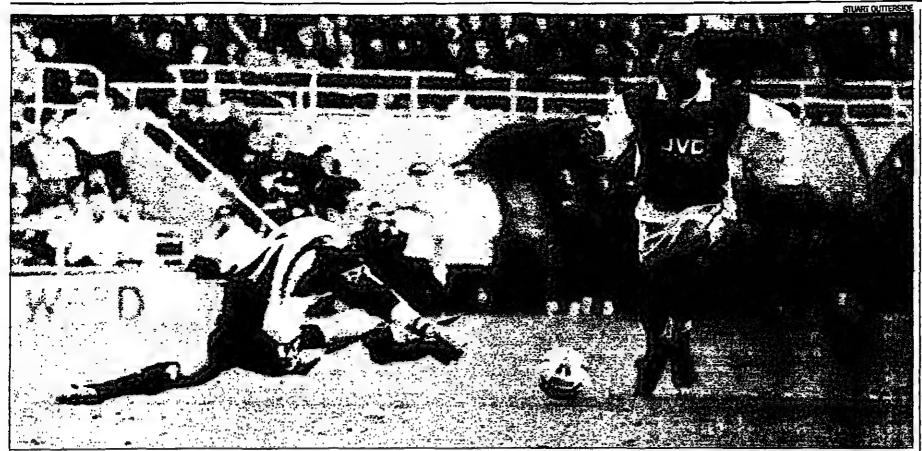
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GHANGING TIMES



CHOOSE YOUR PLAYERS FROM HERE

COALKEEPERS



Anelka swerves past Given and scores Arsenal's only goal at St James' Park on Sunday. In his present form, how can any Fantasy League manager be without him?

Pearce locates target to hammer his point home

n previous FA Cup weekends, the small number of matches affecting The Times Fantasy League has not made it worthwhile to award weekly or ON-Target prizes. This week, however, a total of six FA Carling Premiership games are being played, so there will be no "rollover" of prizes to the following week.

Today we announce the winner of the prize of £1.000 plus £100 worth of Puma sports equipment awarded to the Fantasy manager of the month, in addition to the £500 prize for the team of the week (opposite). Our aim, misguided perhaps, is give our Fantasy player of the week award to a different player each week. The logic behind this decision is that readers of these pages probably know all they need to about stars such as Dwight Yorke, Nicolas Anelka and Andy Cole, whose regular high scoring means they are often candidates for the award; therefore we prefer to draw their attention to other, lesser-known names who might be worth a place in their Fantasy teams.

Occasionally, we permit ourselves a smug smile as one of our previous winners comes up with another sparkling seven days; on Saturday. for example, George Boateng, the Coventry City midfield player, our award-winner a while ago, scored twice in his team's 4-1 away win over

His team-mate, John Aloisi, also netted twice, and was considered for this week's title, but his first-team appearances tend to be limited, so we have picked another relatively unsung hero who is first choice for

This steady central defender is one of only two players at Upton Park to hold an FA Carling Fremiership winner's medal (lan Wright, formerly with Arsenal, is the other). earned when he was in the Blackburn Rovers squad that took the title in 1995. On Saturday, Ian Pearce (for it is he) scored against his former employers, and helped keep them out at the other end, to earn six Fantasy League points.

Select a team of 11 Premiership players from

those listed right. The total value of your team

must not exceed £50m and you cannot choose

more than one player from the same Premiership

club. Your team must be in a 4-4-2 formation with:

one goalkeeper; two full-backs; two centre-backs;

TO ENTER BY POST Name your team on the

entry form, left, in no more than 16 characters.

Enter the correct three-digit player codes from the

list, right, followed by the players' names. Enter

the first three characters of each player's team

enter the value of each player shown on the list

under the heading CLUB, ie, LEE for Leeds. Also

right. Add up the values of the 11 players in your

four midfielders; and two forwards.

FANTASY TEAM NAME (up to 16 characte



Pearce is not a consistent goalscorer: all the more remarkable, then, that Saturday's was the second West Ham home game in succession in which he has appeared at the far post to score from open play. Against Nottingham Forest a fortnight ago, he volleyed in a Frank Lampard cross from the left, and against Blackburn, met a far post cross from Paolo Di Canio on the right to send a header past John Filan. When Rovers launched their comeback attempt in the second half, he stood firm in his usual position on the right of the back three. Pearce began his career with

Chelsea and made four appearances as substitute before joining Blackburn for £300,000 in 1993.

had increased to £1,600,000 when he arrived at Upton Park, but that still represents a bargain buy by Harry Redknapp, the West Ham manager, who has seen the reliable Pearce help his side into contention for European qualification. Inflation and his consistent level of performance in a winning team means that he will cost you £3.1 million, but for your money you are getting a sound defender who has, it seems, discovered where the goal is. ☐ For legal reasons, The Times Fantasy League is no longer able to accept entries from players under 18 years of age. Players 17 years and under already registered in the main and youth leagues will, however, be allowed to remain in the competition.

Almost four years later, his value

● 550,080 to the top Fantasy League manager, plus a trip for two to the European Cup final

PRIZES.

- £10,000 to the runner-up
- £5.000 for third place
- @ £1,900 monthly prizes: eight prizes of £1,000, plus £100 of Puma
- ⊕ £500 weekly prizes: 36 prizes of £500, plus £100 of Puma sports

HOW TO ENTER YOUR FANTASY LEAGUE TEAM

Youth League.

THE TIMES MAIN FANTASY LEAGUE ENTRY FORM

£1,090 youth prize, plus mouthly prizes of a Premiership football shirt

team and make sure the total does not exceed

Rol) or your credit-card details. You will get

confirmation of your team and your personal

identity number (PIN) on receipt of your entry

form. Readers under 18 should seek parental

permission before entering. They must state their

date of birth and indicate if they wish to enter our

LUCKY DIP if you would like us to select a team

at random for you, please tick the Lucky Dip box

(+44 870 901 4209 outside the UK) using a touch-

TO ENTER BY PHONE Call 0640 67 88 99

on the entry form. Postal entries only.

£50m. Send your entry to the address shown, with

a cheque/PO for £2.50 (£10 sterling outside UK or

● £500 weekly On-Target prize

As I was saying

Not much of a week coming What do you mean? Well, the FA Cup sixth round is being played this weekend, so there isn't a lot happening on the Fantasy

I disagree. There may only be three FA Carling Premiership games on Saturday, but plenty is going on in midweek. Hmm. I'd overlooked that. What games are on, then? Apart from last night's Leicester versus Leeds game, which counts

towards next week's scores, there's Tottenham against Southampton tonight, and Sheffield Wednesday against Wimbledon

And Leicester, Southampton and Wimbledon play again Exactly. So if any of those teams manage two wins, or get two clean sheets in the case of their defenders, there's a chance for some

good Fantasy League And somehow I get the feeling that there might be a very clean sheet indeed at Wimbledon v Leicester on Saturday.

You never know. Who would have predicted Coventry winning 4-1 away to Villa? It might be a goal

I should think there's more chance of goals in West Ham's game away to

For Southampton, perhaps. They've done well in that fixture recently, and Southampton have been having a good run at home.

tone (DTMF) phone and when prompted tap in your 11 three-digit player codes. You will be asked

to give the name of your team (no more than 16

characters). You will then be given a 10-digit PIN.

make sure you write this down and keep it safe to

be able to check your team's progress and make

transfers. Calls last about seven minutes. 0640 calls are 60p per minute. Calls from outside the

UK are charged

payphones cost

approximately

at national

Calls from

laiso wish to enter the Youth League (please tick)

But won't they be tired after two games in a week? And the Leicester and Wimbledon players? Since those two play each other, that should cancel itself out.

That leaves one other game, by my reckoning. Who's playing? Ah, now that's a big game: Coventry at home to Charlton. A real relegation six-pointer. Coventry to walk it?

Don't be too sure. Chariton

have gone four games without conceding a goal. But is there anyone in any of these teams that I should be looking to sign? On form, Chariton defenders. Someone like Cari Tiler goes up for set-pieces, and he came very close to a goal against Forest at the weekend. He should be good for three

Road. So let me get this straight; you're making a predictionabout Coventry, whose last result you admitted was completely unpredictable? Funny game, Faniasy





CENTRE BACKS

Playing lil and see

	34.	4
FANT LEA	AS	Y

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HELPLINE

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FORWARDS

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Section 1

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FANTASY LEAGUE TOP 100

Anelka shoots his way to the top

The Arsenal forward appears unstoppable, but Charlton have started a revival that could have aided Fantasy League managers

f one were to select a player and a team of the month for February, there would be few arguments with the choices of Nicolas Anelka, of Arsenal, as the outstanding individual, and Charlton Athletic as the team.

After a disastrous run of results that included eight defeats in succession, Charlton won three games out of four in February and did not concede a goal — equalling their best spell in the top division since the days of Sam Bartram.

Anelka had the sort of month that most players can only dream about, eclipsing even the likes of Dwight Yorke in his goalscoring; indeed. when the two went head-to-head at Old Trafford, it was Anelka who put his side ahead with an angled shot into the roof of the Stretford End net over a sprawling Peter Schmeichel, while Yorke was unable to score, seeing a late effort saved by David

Aneika's two most memorable goals of the month, scored for France against England at Wembley, do not, of course, count towards his Fantasy League score, but there were plenty of others: the three against Leicester City at

Highbury, for Instance. Anelka, however, was not the first name on the list when this month's winning Fantasy League team, Zia's Passion, was being chosen by Zia Chaudhry, of Berkshire.

Mr Chaudhry, who lives in Slough and is studying information Technology at Langley College. supports Liverpool, and chose Michael Owen ahead of the Arsenal man. Nevertheless, Anelka was soon pencilled in, "for his shooting power

With Mr Chaudhry's team finishing the month only four points ahead of the field, the contributions of two midfield players. Dietmar Hamann, of Newcastle United, who scored the equaliser against Arsenal at St James' Park on Sunday, and George Boateng, who gained six Fantasy League points in Coventry City's 4.1 win over Aston Villa, were

important. The selection of big-money players farther forward meant that there was little left over to spend on defenders, which turned out to be a blessing in disguise. A bargain buy. Chris Powell, who cost only £2.7 million, was part of an impregnable Charlton defence in the victories against Wimbledon, Liverpool and Derby County, Poweil's previous club, and the draw with Nottingham

Forest last Saturday. Powell, the former Southend United left back who arrived at The Valley from Pride Park last summer for a Charlton club record fee of



	NTHE	M. SECTION		
1,71			1 1 1 2	

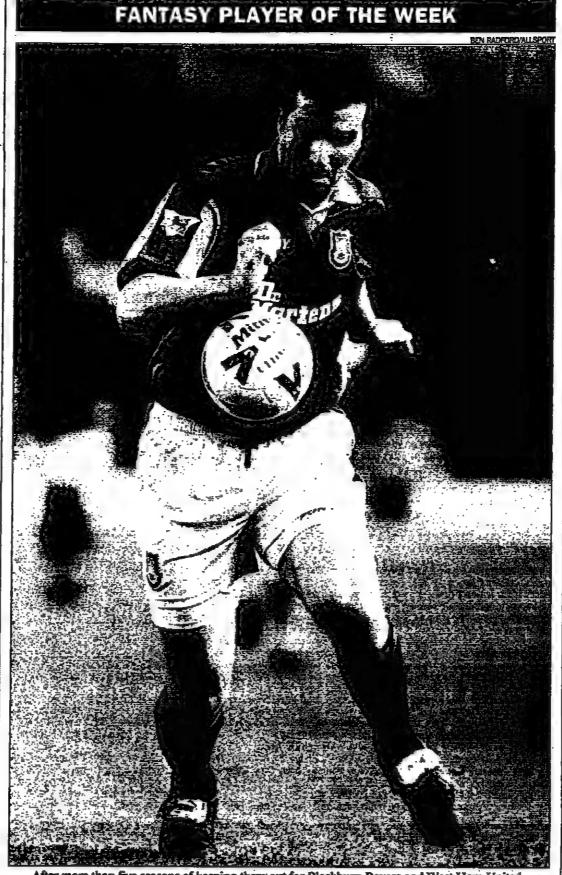
MUNICIPALITY WINNER
ZIA'S PASSION
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A Hinchcliffe (SHE)7
C Powell (CHA)14
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J Stam (MAN)
M Ezet (LE)
O Dacourt (EVE)
D Hamana (NEW)8
@ Boateng (COV)
N Anelka (ARS)18
M Owen (LIV)11
TOTAL POINTS: 77

£825,000, contributed 14 points to Mr Chaudhry's total of 77, winning him El,000 plus El00 worth of sports equipment — a nice birthday present. if it did arrive two weeks

"I spent a lot of money on Anelka. Owen and some expensive midfield players, so I went for a chean defender and I came up with him, Mr Chaudhry said.

Powell was also a member of the weekly winners, Twig's Team. chosen by Chris Meekings, of Gloucester. Mr Meekings is a supporter of Coventry City, and was delighted to see Boateng score twice at Villa Park, the six points being the largest single contribution to his team's score of 23, for which he wins £500 and £100 worth of sports

equipment. Originally, the Coventry representative in Mr Meekings' team was Dion Dublin, but a double transfer in October saw Dublin and Ian Taylor exchanged for Boateng and Yorke. Yorke was the team's second-highest scorer this week with 5. thanks to a goal and an assist against Southampton, while four other players scored three: Rio Ferdinand, Frank Lebocuf, Hamann



After more than five seasons of keeping them out for Blackburn Rovers and West Ham United. Ian Pearce has suddenly discovered the knack of knocking them in at the other end. On Saturday, his old mates from Ewood Park found out for themselves as Pearce scored six Fantasy League points

Dave 10.... Chequers Champ Colin Head., lain Anderso Paul O'Neill. The Odd Squa Four Four Two Sunfish Stars Melodymaker Barder Shipley Popat's Army Barrys Hats.. Als Bandits... Kevin's Kings. Super Snipers PC Grand Pan Pizza.

Playing like Forest? Take heart and seek out the £500 prize

It may be closer to the end of the season than the beginning, but Fantasy League prizes remain up for grabs with ON-Target

Andrew Clarke, of Guildford, main winner of ON-Target this week, who finds himself £500 richer and possessor of an EA Sports Pack. Fourteen other managers have also managed to win themselves ex-

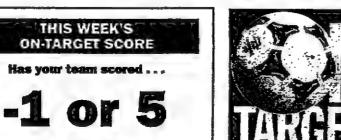
Even if you do not have a Fantasy League team, you can enter this new game now - or enter a new one simply for ON-Target. All managers have the chance to win a share of £28,000 of new prizes. The Times has teamed up with EA Sports to offer you the chance to own the renowned FIFA 99 game. Every week you have the chance to win: Ist Prize: £500 plus an **EA Sports Pack**

■ 4 runners up: EA Sports Packs
10 additional runners up: FIFA 99 CD-Rom. Each EA Sports Pack contains: FIFA 99 for the Play-Station: FIFA 99 for the PC: EA Sports T-Shirt, key ring and mini football plus a

record bag. IF YOU already have a team in the main game. then you're ready to play ON-Target. Simply check your Fantasy League players' score each week and see if their total is the same as our ON-Target score shown here each Tuesday. If you have scored the exact target points, a quick call to our ON-Target winners line (national rate call) will put you in the draw to win one of the 15 prizes.

The ON-Target score may be high or low. There could be more than one score (such as today). It could be a minus score. So it's worth checking your performance every week. Just have your PIN handy to call the winners

0870 901 4270



Check your total, then ring 0870 901 4270 (ex UK +44 870 901 4270)

> Calls charged at national rates

If you don't have a team, or want to sign up another one, enter now by filling in the entry form. There are no limits to how many teams you enter. Not only could you win the ON-Target prizes, but you could win the main game weekly (£500) or monthly (£1.000)

HOW TO ENTER: Look up your players' weekly point scores opposite and add them up, or call the checkline 0640 625 102. If your rotal score for this week matches the ON-Target number(s), then call our claim line on **0870 901** 4270 (calls, charged at na-

into the draw. Just look in tional rate, should last the paper on the following Tuesday to see if you have rect points who have not

about a minute). Claims must be made before midnight on Sunday night. The lines then close until the next game starts on Tues-

day morning.

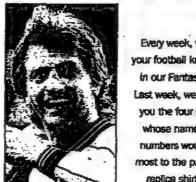
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Managers with the cor-





the 12 or 13 letters in the names of Niclas Alexandersson (26), Pierre van Hooijdonk Gunnlauesson (13) and Chris Bart-Williams (11). How much for a hyphen, by the way? What do this week's four upwardly mobile

Every week, we test your football knowledge in our Fantasy Quiz. Last week, we showed you the four players whose names and numbers would add most to the price of a replica shirt: two numerals each, plus

FAMUSY/LEAGUE QUIZ

(40), Amar

players have in







CHECK YOUR SCORES TELEPHONE 0640 62 51 02

		LEAGUE TOP 10	
1	Sarabjot Kohil	Junglemen	30
2	Robert Anderson	Robert's Rovers	29
3	Henrietta Ball	Henri & Goats UU	28
4	Matthew O'Neil	The M Team	28
4	Jwalant Popat	Popat's Army	28
6	Tom Summers	Ganichou	27
7	Graham Booth	Manchester City	27
7	Claire Barber	Super Spurs	27
9	Daniel Lewis		27
9	Daisy Martin	Saxham Tuesdays	27



Bargains in midfield proving vital

MANAGERS in The Times Fantasy League seem to have varying opinions regarding the importance of their midfield. Many less experienced campaigners tend to pack their midfield with a wealth of talent, often with the likes of Beckham, Overmars and McManaman juxtaposed on their team sheet.

With a limited budget available, they are restricted to a patched-up strike force with the hope that their forwards on the scoresheet. However, based on the evidence of the midfield statistics so far this season, it appears that this is not a wise move.

will occasionally get themselves

Gone are the days when Matthew Le Tissier was capable of 90 points a season; this season it has proved more advantageous to concentrate on of 52 points over the quality in other positions and select bargains in midfield in the hope that they pick up an

assist here and there. This can be demonstrated by the spread of points gained by players in the various positions. Goalkeeping tallies vary from 28 (Seaman and De Goey) to a miserable minus 24 (Beasant) producing a spread

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goalkeeping classification. Similarly, the spread in the full back category is 48 and in the centre back department, 57

However, the top-scoring midfield player. Scholes, has just 31 points and as it is not possible for midfield players to score minus points, the spread of points for midfield players is only 31 - significantly lower

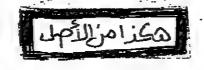
than in other positions. In addition to the budget constraint, managers are also restricted to purchasing one player from each Premiership club, so by having Overmars in your side, you are denied the services of a much sought after Arsenal defender.

There are midfield players out there who are perfectly capable of accumulating a

respectable points tally without costing the Earth, who also play for a lower-profile team. thus benefiting your side in two ways.

î Â

Benito Carbone, of Sheffield Wednesday, Noel Whelan, of Coventry City, Darren Anderton, of Tottenham Hotspur, and Harry Kewell, of Leeds United, have all accumulated more than 20 points so far and will save you more than El million over the bigger names in midfield. For an even bigger saving, Frank Lampard, of West Ham United, Temuri Ketsbaia, of Newcastle United, and Petter Rudi, of Sheffield Wednesday, should also be considered in order to obtain funds to strengthen the defence and



United keep their focus as Inter rule out Ronaldo

IF IT is a smokescreen, they are themselves in danger of losing sight of the bigger picture, Internazionale, who face Manchester United in the first leg of their European Cup Trafford tomorrow, insist that Ronaldo is unfit and will not be with team when they fly into Great Britain today.

The Brazil striker has not fully recovered from a longterm knee injury and, if he visits Manchester at all, it is believed that he will arrive on a private jet with Massimo Moratti, the Inter president, tomorrow. Officials of the Milan club said yesterday that Ronaldo is "99 per cent certain" to miss the match.

However, there have been conflicting signals with every new day and United refuse to be fooled by what could amount to an elaborate mind game. Alex Ferguson, the United manager, knows that it will be to the benefit of his team if Inter get themselves preoccupied over Ronaldo. It

is also increasingly clear that circumspection that enveloped United believe that they can overcome Inter whether he turns up or not.

Ferguson oversaw a lively practice session at The Cliff. the club's training headquarters, yesterday, watched by a large number of supporters. The workout finished with a proper match, giving the onlookers a glimpse of the final XI that will be entrusted with exploiting Inter's indifferent form. Barring last-minute disasters, United will field a full-strength side and, for Ferguson to indulge in any mental kidology of his own.

Roy Keane, the United captain, spoke for all his teammates when he said: "We're not afraid of any team, anywhere. We began to take a closer look at Inter in training yesterday, but you can look at the opposition too much. We are concentrating on our strengths and we'll let them do

the worrying."
His words suggest that the

the last appearance by United in the quarter-finals has been erased. Then, against AS Monaco last season, they were undone by virtue of the away goais rule.

'A win at home tomorrow is vital," Keane said. "We must not concede any goals, either. Italian teams are very good at coming to places and nicking one precious goal."

Inter believe that they can trouble the central defensive pairing of Jaap Stam and Ronny Johnsen. At training yesterday, Steve McClaren the United first-team coach, emphasised the need for containment in a separate discus-sion with the defenders and the central midfield partner-ship of Keane and Scholes.

Edgar Davids, the Juventus midfield player, also spoke out on behalf of Stam, his teammate in the Holland national side. "It is laughable if Inter think that Jaap is slow," Davids said. "He has got the quality to cope with whatever they throw at him."

Ferguson has received a report on every Inter match since the draw for the quarterfinals was made, but he will urge his players to concentrate on their own game. He said: We must learn from our experiences in previous European ties, about the dangers of counter-attacking and relaxing at crucial moments. Nor can we be overawed by the qualities that Inter present."

So important is this tie that the local newspaper in Manchester has brought out a souvenir supplement this week, detailing United's "glorious" European campaigns. Alas, it serves only to underline how inglorious most of them have been, but it is an anomaly that. to judge by the confidence around Manchester yesterday, the present players feel they can finally eradicate.



Toshack, Real Madrid's new coach, talks to his players before their European Cup match against Dynamo Kiev

Latin giants eye silverware

By Rob Hughes

at Atlético and Carlo Ancelotti

at Juventus — only Ancelotti knows that he will be in

charge next season.

The rest are tempo-

rary and million-

aire players, like ir-

responsible school-

boys, become lazy

when the headmas-

ter watching over

them is not per-

We should not

form and we must remember,

for example, that the Real squad for the match against

Dynamo Kiev is virtually the

sameas that which won the

European Cup last May and the World Club Cup in Tokyo

in December. If Toshack gets

the motivation right, he could

At Inter, Lucescu (keeping

the managerial seat warm for

be five games from glory.

trust their league

orm, or facade? There is little kidology time left for coaches to indulge in before the European cup competitions resume over the next three

marched up to Internazionale's Alpine camp and came down with confused information about the state of Ronaldo's knee were just the advance party. Right across the boundaries of the Uefa Cup, the European Cup and the Cup Winners' Cup there are quality sides whose recent league performances would appear to have been designed to mislead, or have been the consequence of sudden change in management.

Italy and Spain will have a significant say, again, in the destination of the silverware, yet between the last round and the quarter-finals, four clubs — Real Madrid and Juventus, who contested the last European Cup final, plus Internazionale and Atlético Madrid — have dispensed with their coaches in an effort

to make the players play.

These are big clubs living for the moment. They spend, sometimes more than they can afford, to amass resources capable of winning European tournaments and, on the eve

Marcello Lippi) has run into of the knockout stage that brings such a welcome authenresentment among the staff. ticity to cup football, they pannot least Taribo West, of ic. It is a short-term fix. Of the Nigeria. However, even without Ronaldo, they have big-match winners in Roberto new trainers - Mircea Lucescu at Inter, John Toshack at Baggio and Ivan Zamorano Real Madrid, Carlos Aguiar

and while Inter's vulnerabili-

ty down the flanks is well de-

tailed, they have conceded the

fewest goals - five

- in Europe so far, in comparison with with Man-Toshack chester United's 11. could be

Indeed, keeping the first leg tight is a virtue that has five games brought Italy 13 from glory' European tro-phies, including

European Cups, in the Nineties. The country has chances to win all three tournaments this year with Inter or Juventus in the main event, Parma, AS Roma and Bologna in the Uefa Cup tonight and Lazio, the Serie A leaders, in the Cup Winners' Cup on Thursday.

According to Alex Fergu-son, the Manchester United the Italians are professional es in first and prepare unwary opponents for the sting. It is a myth that the competitions are weak. The presence of so many Latins, the best in Spain, Italy and France, as well as Bayern Munich, the leaders of the Bundesliga in Germany, is warning enough,

Then there is Kiev. Valeri Lobanovski, the old fox, saw his Dynamo side cut down by Juventus last year when, as usual, the harsh winter had deprived his squad of match fitness and, as usual, Kiev had sold players.

This time, it is different. Kiev have sold no one and Andrei Shevchenko and Serge Rebrov are well paid, well fed and well wintered through 21 practice matches in Germany, Italy, Cyprus and Israel, If there is unfamiliarity between Toshack and his new team in Madrid. Dynamo will exploit

Nevertheless, in all comnetitions, there will be caution in the first leg — and players un-der caution. Manchester's best news might not be that Ronaldo missed the plane, but that seven Inter players including Baggio and Diego Simeone, David Beckham's likely adversary - start the match under the inhibiting factor of a yellow card.

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SPORT

Hide sets date for defence

World Boxing Organisation heavyweight champion, will make the third defence of his title on April 3 at the Albert Hall, London, against an opponent yet to be

Hide has boxed only five rounds in the past two years, but he said yesterday: "I want a challenge, every human being wants a challenge. It's time, but it's not easy to get the fights." Hide is due to make a mandatory defence against Vitaly Klitschko, the European champion based in Germany, by the end of May. III BOWLS: Fourteen years

have passed since the aptly-named Jean Bowles won the inaugural national Champion of Champions' title, but yesterday she steered Sue Jones and Pat Pearce, her Preston club-mates, to a 17-12 victory against Jean Morris, Kath Draper and Jill Edson, of Lincoln, in the EWIBA triples championship final at Exercit yesterday.

In the semi-finals of the Champion of Champions today, Helen Wall, from Church Gresley, will play Pat Bain, of Eastbourne, while Tina Burgess, of Wellingborough, takes on Theresa Darnell-Langton.

from Basingstoke. E FOOTBALL England will play Italy in the first semiprofessional international of incuesatorius priezmanental of the season at Hayes tonight. ENGLAND (tron): 8 Book (Cheverham Town), P Gotherd (Departurn and Rebedge): 8 Share (Docaser Rover), A Comyn (Henchesland Town). M Smith (Steverage Borough); T Njuan (Southport) M Smarth (Steverage Notlong). 8 Wormal (Dover Adviser: P Underground (Pushden and Damonde). 8 Butterporth (National and Damonde).

HOCKEY: The draw for the semi-finals of the EHA Cup vesterday saw Cannock given a home tie against Southgate, while Old Loughtonians will be at home to Reading. The ties will be played on April

Branca gets all-clear

Six weeks after announcing the retirement of Marco Bran-Middlesbrough have agreed that the Italian striker can resume his career with them. Branca, 34, who sustained a serious knee injury last April, has been cleared to

play by three surgeons. France have agreed to play Northern Ireland at Windsor Park on August 18. The world champions are using the game as preparation for their European championship qualifying match against Ukraine in Kiev in early September. Sunderland have submitted a planning application to increase the capacity of the Stadium of Light from 42,000 to

48,000 at a cost of £5.5 million.

FOOTBALL IN BRIEF

John Gorman, the former been appointed first-team succeeds Stewart Houston,

Lionel Perez, the Newcastle United goalkeeper, has returned to Tyneside after failing to agree personal terms with Lyons.

Chris Sutton, the Blackburn Rovers striker, promised vesterday that he would be at Ewood Park pext season whatever happens". Newspaper reports have linked Sutton with Chelsea.

England assistant coach, has coach at Ipswich Town. He who has moved to Tottenham

Hotspur.

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10 Jean Alesi

12 Ralf Schumacher 13 HH Frentzen

18 Jamo Trulli 19 Rubens Barrichello 14 Alexander Wurz 20 Pedro Diniz 15 Mika Salo 21 Pedro de la Rosa

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17 Marc Gene **CONSTRUCTORS**

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Wasps tie

might

have sting

in its tail

By Mark Souster

GLOUCESTER lodged a

Wales summon flanker bred in New Zealand

By Mark Souster

complaint with the Rugby Football Union (RFU) last night over the proposed decision to switch their Tetley's Bitter Cup semi-final against Wasps IT IS a sign of the times in from Good Friday to Easter Sunday.

Although the RFU is

expected to adjudicate today. Gloucester do not believe that Wasps should be allowed to move the fixture simply because Queen's Park Rangers, six months ago but selected on with whom they ground St David's Day to play against share, are playing a France. Nationwide league first An open-side flanker with division match at Loftus Road on Easter Saturday.

John Hall, a club director, said: "Wasps knew the criteria for the draw well beforehand. If they could not play at home on Friday, they should have gone into the hat as an SEMI-FINALS

Wasps v Gloucester Date and venue to be continued Richmond v Newcastle

Madepiki Szadium, April 3

away team only." BSkyB had scheduled the two semi-finals, the second between Richmond and Newcastle at the Madeiski Stadium on April 2 and 3. After a day of negotiations between Wasps and Twickenham that latterly also involved Tom Walkinshaw, the Gloucester owner, it seemed that April 4 with a 2.15pm start, was an ideal solution given that BSkyB. the television company. was happy to be flexible.

Originally, the RFU had wanted to stage both semifinals as a double-header at Twickenham, but when that proved to be an unviable proposition, neutral venues were suggested, a scenario with which the clubs did not concur. After much horse-trading, home ties were accepted as long as the respective stadiums had a minimum capacity of 8,000. That presented a problem for Newcastle, whose ground holds only 6,000. Fortunately, they

were drawn away. Swansea face possible expulsion from the SWALEC Cup after they failed to meet a deadline of last Sunday to pay fines of £150,000 imposed by the Wales Rugby Union for playing unofficial cross-border fixtures with leading English clubs The general committee of the Welsh Rugby Union will discuss their fate on Thursday week.

SKI

Obergurgi St Anton

Aipe d'Huez Avonaz

La Clusa: La Plagne La Tania

Les Arcs Tignes Vai Thorens

Liviano Midi Campiglio

Switzerland Crons Montana

Davos Gandelwald

St Monta Verbier Villars

United States

Aspen. Deer Valley

Answers from page 44

GABOON

GALÉRE

short swords under their long abas."

province and river in West Africa.

Vakriorei Italy Cerunia Cortera

Norway

Wales, where the fabled fly half factory has stopped production, that the latest models fill different positions and car-ry New Zealand number plates. First there was Shane Howarth, followed now by Brett Sinkinson, unheard of

Neath, Sinkinson. 28, will make his international debut in Paris on Saturday. He arrived in Wales last autumn after playing more than 50 times for Bay of Plenty. He was also a member of the Waikato Chiefs Super 12 squad. Remarkably, he will become the third New Zealandborn open-side to appear in the Five Nations Championship this season, after Martin Leslie, of Scotland, and Andy Ward, of Ireland. Sinkinson qualifies through

a grandfather from Trim-saran, the birthplace of Jonathan Davies, and is one of four changes to the team that started against Ireland at Wernbley. Either through a lack of form, or fitness, Graham Henry, the Wales coach, has swept away his entire front row in an attempt to boister the scrummage, an area where Wales have been brutally exposed and where they will be sorely tested by France.

Peter Rogers, of London Irish, another debutant, comes in at loose head for Darren Morris, after recovering from a knee ligament injury that kept him out of rugby for four months. Garin Jenkins, capped 39 times, made a visible difference as a replacement at Wembley and now starts ahead of Barry Williams, while David Young's suspect fitness rules him out at

DETAILS

WALES (v Frence m Paris, Merch 6): S Howarth (Sele), M Robbinson (Swansea), M Trylyfor (Swansea), S Glaba (Swansea), D James (Fontypridd): N Jemidna (Fon-typridd), R Howley (Cardif, captain), P Rogers (Lincian Itsh), G Jeridkins (Swan-sea): B Evens (Swansea), C Quánnell (Pichimond), C Wyset (Linelli), C Charvis (Swansea), B Sindinson (Nesith), S Quin-nall (Linell), Reptacemptis: K Mogan

ENGLAND SCHAD in Instant in Dubin March 5: Backer N Beel (Northampton). M Perry (Bath), D Rese (Sale), D Luger (Harlequins), J Wildenson (Northampton), M Catt (Bath), P Grayson (Northampton), M Daveson (Northampton), K Brackern (Saracons) Forwards: J Looth (March of the Control of the Contr (Norshampton), M Datwson (Norshampton), K Bracton (Saracons) Forwards: J Leonard (Hartequins), D Garrhoth (Leosater), V Ubogu (Bath), R Cockertil (Leosater), N shockarthy (Gaucaster), M Johnson (Leosater), T Rodher (Norshampton), D Grewroock (Saracons), L Dallagillo (Wasps, captan), N Back (Leosater), R Hill (Saracons), M Cony (Loosater),

tight head. He is replaced by Ben Evans, Jenkins's Swansea colleague, who will begin an international for the first time. Robert Howley retains the captaincy in an unchanged back division. Allan Bateman, who is fit again, is among the replacements.

Sinkinson's rise to prominence is remarkable by any standard. He was spotted by Lynn Jones, the Neath coach, himself a former Wales No 7. playing last summer in



Christchurch and, in conversations after the game, revealed he was Wales-qualified. With Sinkinson's path

blocked to a place in the All Blacks team, Jones had little trouble enticing the player to Neath, where he quickly estab-lished himself at club and representative level. He has played twice for Wales A this season.

Brett has an ability to read the game which others here don't have. His tackling is second to none but it is his work after the tackle situation that marks him out," Jones said vesterday.

Rogers, of whom Henry is a keen admirer, would have made his Wales debut against South Africa last automn had he not suffered a serious knee ligament injury. Rogers, born in Maidstone, of a Welsh father, has not been able to regain his club place from Neil Hatley, but that has not deterred Henry, who, on the back of a powerhouse performance against Ireland A at Donnybrook, had no hesitation in

"It will be a huge challenge, but one you have to look forward to," Rogers said yester-

Another prop enjoying a new lease of life is Victor Ubogu, of Bath, who was called up yesterday into the 22-man England squad which leaves for the match in Dublin this morning. Uhogu, 34, and the holder of 21 caps, is the one change, coming in for Graham Rowntree, who is injured. Clive Woodward, the coach, said: "I considered Will Green, who remains in my plans, but Victor's selection is based on his excellent club form and his proven experience at this level." The team will be armounced tomorrow.



Special delivery: Paul Adams, the South Africa spin bowler,

which surpassed the South African Test record set by Graefollows the flight on the third day of the Test against New Zealand in Auckland. Buoyed by Daryll Cullinan's 275 not out,

Derbyshire row resolved to suit Cork

has left by mutual consent, have a structure that can allow

By RICHARD HOBSON

DOMINIC CORK, who asked to be released by Derbyshire little more than a month ago.

has resolved his differences with the county and agreed to remain as captain for the next Andy Hayhurst, the director of coaching and development. Food poisoning hits under-19s

ENGLAND Under-19. weakened by food poisoning, suf-fered a six-wicket defeat in the one-day international against New Zealand Under-19 in Hamilton to lose the series 2-1. Both teams and local officials were affected by sick-ness. England lost Ian Bell, Giles Haywood and Matt Whiley, while Matt Bulbeck was unable to take the field

rounder, wanted both men Rhodes and Hayhurst, said. removed from positions of in-There remain matters to be fluence on cricketing matters. resolved before the divisions "I am so happy the differenc-

while Harold Rhodes, the

former England fast bowler,

has been omitted from a re-

structured cricket committee.

Cork, the former England all-

for the New Zealand innings

Dayle Hadlee, the New Zea-

land coach, believed that the

illness was caused by food,

probably chicken, served on

Saturday during the second

one-day international.

Michael Slater and Greg

Blewett, members of the tour

party to the West Indies, have been omitted from Australia's

FOR THE RECORD

after scoring 33 not out.

that have made for a fractious

preliminary squad for the World Cup.

us to concentrate our efforts to-

wards leading Derbyshire towards a successful future,"

Cork, who believed his author-

had been undermined by

PRIELIMINARY SOLIADS: Australia: S R Waugh (ractain), S K Werne (voc-coptavr), M G Bevan, A C Dale, D W Flemme, A C Gi-christ, J N Gillespue, I J Harvey, B P Julian, S G Law, S Lee, D S Lehvrern, S C G MacCall, G D McGrath, D R Marryn, R T Porting, P R Reiffel, M E Waugh, B E Young Resists Advises W.J. Comje (capasin), S.M. Pol-lock (woe-captain), G. Kirsten, H.H. Gibbs, J. H.Kalis, D.J. Cullinan, J.N. Rhodes, L. Kluser, N.J. Bolg, M.V. Bouther, A.A. Donald, A. Dawson, S. Elworthy, D.M. Benkerstien, D.N. Crookes, P. L. Symbou, N. Pothus, P. R. Ad-anis, M. Nipol er. A special general meeting called by a section of the membership who want the committee to resign en bloc over the handling of the Cork affair will go ahead next Tuesday.

The second secon

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A spokesman for Derbyshire said that it was thought to be in the best interests of both Hayhurst and the club for Hayhurst to leave the County Ground. He will be replaced by a cricket manager. Colin Wells, the second XI coach at Somerset, is believed to be a target. Kim Barnett will not feature in discussions, having agreed a three-year deal

with Gloucestershire. The manager will sit on a cricket committee alongside Les Elliott, the chairman, who played the leading role in brokering what he hopes will amount to a peace agreement. Cork, Karl Krikken, the vicecantain, and Andy Brown, the second XI coach.

SNOOKER

DERBY: Liverpool Victoria Charity Cha lenge: Final: J Higgns (Soot) bt R O'Sul

TENNIS

White returns early

JASON WHITE, the Glasgow Caledonians forward, who was suspended for 16 weeks last November for stamping the head of Straaten, the South Africa fly half, has been included in the Scotland Under-21 side to play Italy Under-21 on Friday, just three days after completing his 112-day sentence (Alastair Reid writes).

White was cited for the offence, which took place during the Caledonians' game against the touring Springboks at Firhill, and has played no matches since.

Meanwhile, after confirma-

SHOW

28/2

26/2

SNOW REPORTS

Pista

155 168 Good Open

120 200 Good Open 50 65 Fair Stusty 80 176 Good Stusty 40 90 Good Stusty

70 90 Good Open Vaned

Open Open Open Some Open Stushy Open Open Open Open

123 153 Good Open Vaned Sun 220 220 Good Open Vaned Fair

WORD-WATCHING

(c) Or abba. A sleeveless outer garment, resembling a sack with openings for the head and arms, worn by Arabs. The Arabic

word has a long second "a". "Galileans in his league, carrying

(c) A hardwood from the tree Aucoumea klaineana. Also used at-

tributively, as in "gaboon adder" or "viper". A toponym of the

(b) A term denoting the thwartship stowage of casks, bags, etc. "I

have both stowed and worked out Burtons many scores of times

(b) A coterie or circle. A (usually undesirable) set of people. An un-

pleasant place or situation. In French the word means literally "a

galley". "If it comes to ruling ideas what was Newman doing in a

during the 25 years I spent along the east End waterside."

Sun Cloud Cloud Fine Cloud

L - lower stopes. U - upper stopes

Runs to

Shishy Open Slushy Open Open Open Open Open Open

Resort Off/p

agreed to join Bristol next season, a Scottish Rugby Union spokesman said yesterday Scotland would be intensified. Amid a package of proposals being prepared, it is expected that some players will be offered contract extensions to the end of next season.

Michael Horak, the full back, has left Leicester to join Bob Dwyer, his former coach, at Bristol. Horak's contract was due to run out in July, but he was released early and registered before the transfer deadline last Thursday.

BASKETBALL NATIONAL LEAGUE (REAL: Milwaukee 78 Philadelphia 87: San Antonio 87 Utah 101, LA Lakers 108 Houston 90: Detroit 89 New York 68, Ostando 78 Milami 84, 28 Perisand 100; Phosinis 102 BUDWEISER LEAGUE: Sunday re. Chester Jets 76 Newcastle Eagles 82.

EXETER: EWBA Indoor champion-ships: Under-31 singles: Semi-finals: C Ashby (Eastbourne) bt 8 Seymour (Cty of By) 21-15. D Tabbot (Bornsky) Metrodome) bt K Hawas (Cherwell) 21-13 Finet: Ashby bt Tabbot 21-20. Triples: Semi-finals: S Jones, P Peerce, J Bowles (Preston) bt C Winter, B Whatlord, K Strutt (Egham) 22-7. J Mons, K Oraper, J Edoor (Lincoh) bt J Whi-lock, M Moniston. E Bassel (Yeovil) 18-9. Finet: Preston bt Lincoh 17-12. Champion of Champions singles: First round: H Wall (Church Gresley) bt J Hadfeld (New-

quey 21-9; V Montmer (Swindon Westledon) by L Shorter (County Arts) 21-18; A Cox (Hendy Coxes) bit Prope (Stonyldil) 21-17; P Bein (Eastlooune) by W Line (Arterley) 21-14; T Burgess (Wellingborough) b) B Dudley (King George Fleid) 21-15; C Ed-mondson (Cumbna) by A Knott (South Shields) 21-15; T Demell-Langton (Loddon March b) 21 Surveys (Membrago) 21) 45; S Mc-72 Other score: 280: S Lyle (GB) 68, 70, 74. LEADING MENTS WORLD TIANKINGS LEADING BERTS WORLD THANKINGS! (United States unless latalist): 1, T Woods 12.79pts; 2, D Duvai 11 13; 3, D Love III 8.88; 4, Erne Es. (SA) 9 51; 5, M O'Mears, 9.47; 6, L Westwood (GB) 8,07; 7, C More-porneris (GB) 8,08, V Singh (Fill 8.28, 9, N Price (Zim) 8,18; 10, J Leonard 7,44 Shebits 21-14; Patrient-rapid (1000) Vale) bi S. Langdon (Minehead) 21-14; S. Mc-Clintock (Floya) Turbridge Welst) bi D Wood (David Lloyd) 21-19; Gearter-Sinelis Wall bi Mortimer 21-16; Ban bt Cox 21-11; Burgess bt Edmondon 21-14, Damell-Langdon bi McClintock 21-16

EHA Men's Cup: Semi-final draw: Carnock v Southgate; Old Loughtonians v Reading Ties to be played April 25

SCHOOLS SPORT

New Zealand Under-19 v England Under-19 HAMILTON (England Under-19 won loss): New Zealand Under-19 beat England Un-ENGLAND UNDER-19 "M A Gouch c & b Jansen... ...

Total (46.4 overs)...

CRICKET

One-day international

NEW ZEALAND UNDER-19 B Pation b Symington - M Papps b Logan - V Englefield not out J McNarnee c & b Bindge - J Frankin run out - T P McGlashan not out - Estrac (b 1, lo 1, w 6, nb 8) - McNarnee c & b Bindge - McNarnee c & b Bindge - McNarnee

Total (4 with, 46 overs)... W McSlamming, B Jansen, B Martin, M Gillespile and H Shaw did not bat FAUL OF WICKETS: 1-20, 2-44, 3-106, 4-135 8-0-50-1, Fearick 10-0-40-0; Bridge 10-0-40-1, Dawson 10-1-38-0 Limpires: A Hill and M McLean

Umpires: A Hill and M McLean
TOUR MATCH: Port of Spales (1947 day of
four): West Index President's XI 177 O. A-soph
84: S.C.G. MacGell 6-45) and 189 IS Reported
84: S.C.G. MacGell 6-45) and 189 IS Reported
85: MacGell 7-29, Australian 388 (M.E. I., a)
108: S.R. Wasyl 7-72, R.D. King 6-75, Australian
on by an Intrings and as runs
BUSTA CUP: Semi-finet: Berbesdoss Jamai206 (T.O. Powell 114 not out; C. Colymore
440) and 288 (C.G. Met 53, N. Parry S.Z. H.R. Rayan 5-72, Barbastos 289 (S.L. Campbell 68, R.)
C. Holder 62, Peny 5-64). Barbastos need 196
to with.

TODAY'S FIXTURES

Kick-off 7:30 unless stated " denotes all-ticket Uefa Cup Quarter-finals, first leg Atletico Madrid v AS Roma (8.30)

Third division Auto Windscreens Shield Northern section . Semi-final

division: Ashford v Cheimstord; Bashtey v Witney Mildland division: Biolognal v Cinderford: Redditch v Eveshern; Stou-bridge v Sohbull Bord. or Marsiens Cupo Third round: Bedworth Und v Sulton Colc-held. Third-round replay: Biston Town v Burton Albon

Third round: Bedworth Ukd v Suffon Coldheld. Third-round replays Biston Town v
Burton Albon
UNIBOND LEAGUE: Premier division:
Garsborough v Whitby, Lancaster v Alithcham; Leigh RMI v Chortey, Challenge
cap: Fourth round: Accrington Stanley v
Gassiey, Stalybridge Celtic v Burscough
RYMAN LEAGUE: Premier division:
Aylesbury v Neybridge, Boreham Wood v
Sough; Bronley v S. Albarts First
division: Grays v Braintree, Leafherhead v
Wasiostone, Leyton Pernent v Berkhamsted, Odord Chy v Whyteledie, Lybridge v
Yeading. Second division: Banstead v
Harlow; Brackell v Theme Litch Hemel
Hempstead v Wiverhole; Hungerford v Henlord, Windsor and Eton v Horshem. Third
division: Cheshurt v Croydon Affield.
Copton v Egipam; Contriben-Cosuals v
Aveley; Flactwell Heath v Cambelly Town,
Töbury v Hornchurch, Ware v Ford Utd
Puma Cup: Forsth round: Helen v Purfleet, Vandenel Trophy: Fourth round:
Tooting and Mirchem v Epsom and Evel
AVON INSURANCE COMBINATION:
First division: Queen Park Rangers v
Control
PONTIN'S LEAGUE: Premier division: Haltox v Hul (2 0)
WAISSTORLEAD KENT LEAGUE:
Premier division: Stenoter
Stenoter division: Stenoter
Stenoter
Stenoter division: Stenoter
Stenote

tax v Hull (2 0)
WRNSTONLEAD KENT LEAGUEPremier division: Beckenham v Sheppey.
Greenwich v Chatham, Henne Bay v Faversham, Ramegate v Thamesmead, Stade
Green v Lurbindge Wells
INTERLINK EXPRIESS ALLIANCE;
Hatesowen H v Willenhall, Kings Norton v
Sandwell, W Mad Police v Wednesfield
NORTH WESTERN TRAINS LEAGUE:
Floodilt Trophy: Third round: Athenon
Collenes v Citherae

Bologna v Lyons (4.30) Bordeaux v Parma (6.30) Marseilles v Celta Vigo (8.15) FA Carling Premiership Tottenham v Southampion (7 45) . Nationwide League First division

First division

Birmingham v Norwich (7.45)

Burly v Wolverhampton (7.45)

"Crawe v Bristol City (7.45)

Huddensfield v Botton (7.45)

position v Watterd (7.45)

Port Vale v Grinsby (7.45)

Sheffield Utd v Crystal Palace (7.45)

Sunderland v Portsmouth (7.45)

West Bromeich v Stockpon (7.45)

"Boumerrouth v Fulham (7 45)
Bristol Rovers v Wycombe (7.45)
Chesterfield v Milwall (7 45)
Acades, field v Stoke (7 45)
Northampton v Wreshem (7 45)

Rochdale v Wigan (7 45) Scottish League Third division Ross County v East Starling SEMI-PROPESSIONAL INTERNATION-AL MATCH: England v Italy fat Hayes FCI DR MARTENS LEAGUE: Premier divi-atom: Rothwell v Worcester City Southern

Saturday March 6

Coupon no, came, forecas

OTHER SPORT **POOLS FORECAST**

ICE HOCKEY: Sekonda Superleague: London Knights v Manchester Storm (7 0)

34 Torquay v Haldax SCOTTISH LEAGUE SECOND DIVISION

14 Fundan v Lincoln 1
16 Gillingham v Preston 1
16 Min City v North poor 1
17 Milhoed v North Co 1
18 Citchern v Bourd mith X
18 Reading v Maccided of 1
20 Walsali v Luton 1
21 Wigan v Burnley 1
22 Wireshem v Chest ReidX
23 Wycombe v Colci ver 2 35 Alor V Partick 1
36 Arbroath v Invern's CT2
37 Clydia v Fortar
38 East File v Lwingston 2
39 Q of South v Strling A1 FA CARLING overtry v Charton 1 outh ptn v West HamX Imbredon v Lecester 2 ANTIONWIDE LEAGUE
FURST DINISION
4 Brin hard v Postarish 1
5 Burly v C Palace
5 Crewe - Garnsby 1
7 Icoacch v Transee 1
8 Port Vale v Bradford 2
9 CPR v Wolves 1
10 Sundariand to Norwich 1
11 Swandon v Bolton 2 THIRD DIVISION
46 Abian v Mantrase
41 Brechin v Cowdenb'in
42 Durab'itan v E String
43 Stenth' v Queen's P THIRD DIVISION 24 Caristle v Strevsbury 2
25 Dainigton v Brendord X
26 Exeter v Cembridge 2
27 Hulf v Mansfeld X
28 Leyton O v Rochdele 1
29 Peterboron v Hortegool
30 Rotherham v Bernet 1
31 Scarboro v Pyrmouth X
25 Suarth je v Brighton 1
38 Southend v Swanses X NATIONWIDE
CONFERENCE
44 Barrow v Choparina
45 Dover v Forest Gree
46 Farboro v Welling
47 Hayes v Austrian
48 Hereford v Tellard
49 Kid'minster v Hed's

TREBLE CHANCE (home teams): Southampton, West Bromwich, Oldham, Wertham. Darington, Hull, Searborough, Scuthend Dumbiston, Hoye:
BEST DRAWE: Southampton, Oldham, Wiredsm, Scarborough, Southand.
AWAYS: Crystal Palace, Bradford City, Colchester. Strewsbury. Inverness Coledonian.

HOMES: Coventry, Ipswich, Sunderland, Bristol Rovert, Futhern, Manchester City, Milwal, Scurthorpe, Torquay, FIXED ODDS: Homer Coventry, Ipswich, Scurthorpe, Albon, Stenhousemur Awaye. Crystal Palace, Braddord Cay. Strewstury Draws: Westham, Scarborough, Southend

ETON FIVES

VARSITY MATCH: Cembridge University bt Oxford University 3-0, N Shaw and R Shyen bt A Sentance and S Maker 3-0. A Taylor and J Grant-Peterion to G Necholon and D Periss 3-2, J Birch and P Thompson bt D Dahusan and M Patrier 3-0. Cambridge Penguins bt Oxford Peppers 2-1: P Maccioin and S Maskell bt T Swerling and J Saaden 3-1: A Leans and T Record to St bc Shawcross and J Knight 2-3, E Delias and S Reid-Henry bt J Parks and E Sen 3-0 FOOTBALL

FA UMBRO TROPHY DRAW: Quarter fo

Ties to be played on March 27 ICE HOCKEY

NATIONAL LEAGUE (NHL): NY Panges 6 Philadelphia 5, Dallas 1 Les Angeles D Washington 4 Pilisburgh 3, New Jersey 4 Shorate 1: Chicago 1 Si Lovis 2 Venogues Phoenix 1; Chicago t St Louis 3; Val 0 Buffalo 2.

SEKONDA SUPERLEAGUE: Sunday, re-nutire Bracknell 5 Nottinghem 1; Cerclif 2 Manchester 1; London 2 Sheffleid 2 (OT); Newcastle 3 Ayr 2. TUCSON, Arizonat: Tucson Open: Leading Sinal scores (United States united states unite Amold 1; John Taylor 0 Cantord 1. Final posi-tions: 1, Cantord 10pts; 2, John Taylor 9; 3. [pswitch 4; 4, Amold 4; 5, Headington 1

HOCKEY

HOCKEY: Mitor Abbey 11 Clayesmore 11; Hoberdashers 1 Merchant Taylors', North-wood 4, Seatord 1 Hurstplerpoint 7. British Aerospace Metional Schools Unider-16 chaseplonatilips: Conford, Dorset 1 powich HS, Suffolt 0, John Taylor, Selfs 1 Amold, Backpool 0, pawich 2 Headington, Oxford 0, Armold 0 Carderd 1; Headington 0 John Taylor 2, Amold 1 [pawich 1; Carderd 1 Heading-ton 1; Ipawich 1 John Taylor 2, Headington 2

RUGEN: Daty shall Under-18 Capt Quar-ler-finate CES, Waterfield 37 King Ed-ward's, Stratford 5 Weish schools leagues Quarter-finates: Lendovery Col-lege SS Yang V Strate 5 Vend Many este sa rega r Sareda 5. Yegol Matei-n-Vr-ta 5 Tre-glo C.S C, Yegol Listrian 36 Yegol Glantal 12. Neath College 12 Brunteg C S 6 Christ College Bracon severas: Semi-fi-nats. Milled 0 Webrysion 15, Chrst col-lege 39 St Joseph's 0 Planat Chrs College 24 Wellington 7

FINNISH OPEN: Women: Sami-finale: M Zen (Egypt) bit E listra (Not) 9-2, 9-6, 9-1; D Harris (Aus) bit N Passivints (Fin) 9-3, 9-3, 9-5 COLORADIC: Women's Open: Senti-R-nates L Joyce (NC) bit J Thacker (Eng) 9-4, 9-5, 9-5; V Atlanson (Holi) bit S Macfie (Scot) 9-0, 9-1, 9-7; Final: Joyce bit Austron 8-4, 9-0, 6-9, 9-2.

LEADING MEN'S WORLD RANKINGS: 1, P Nicot (Scot); 2, J Power (Can), 3, A Barade (Egypt); 4, P Johnson (Eng), 5, M Heath (Scot), 8, S Parke (Eng); 7, D Jenson

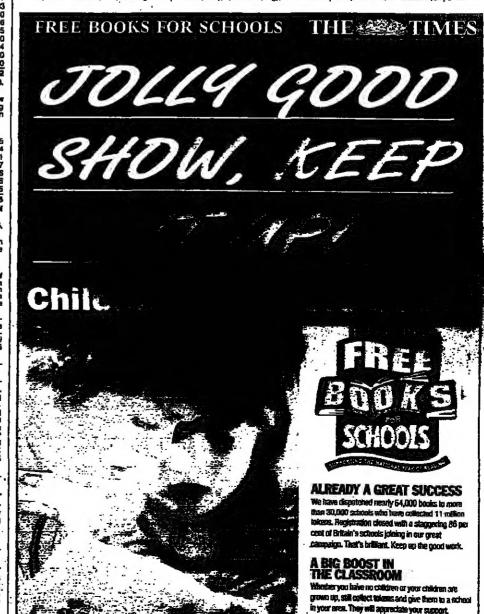
BATTERSEA: Guardian Direct Cup: Dou-bles: Final: T Henman (GB) and G Rusedcki (GB) bt B Black (Zml) and W Ferreira (SA) 5-3, 7-6 6-3, 7-6
ORLAHOMA CITY: Super Thrift Cineoic: Finel: V Witams (US) bi A Coetzer (SA) 6-4, 8-0
LEADRIG MEN'S WORLD RANKONGS:
1. P Sampras (US) 3449-bit. 2, 7 Kalenhov
(Russ) 3382-3, A Correta (Sp) 3250-4, C
Moyá (Sp) 3234, 5-P Raiter (Aus.) 3136, 6,
M Rios (Chile) 2890, 7-T Herman (GB)
2764-8, R Krajesk (Hoft) 2702, 9, A Agass
(US) 2583, 10, G Rusedsia (GB) 2439

MAKE THEIR BOOKS YOUR BUSINESS

If you have an interesting story to tell about

SHNG TIMES

collecting tokens for a local school, ring



SEE THE BACK PAGE OF SECTION ONE FOR TODAY'S TOKEN

SOLUTION TO WINNING MOVE 7 ... Rxh2+!; 2 Kxh2 Qf2+; 3 Kh3 g4+!; 4 fxg4 Rh8 checkmate

galere which contained Goethe and Sainte-Beuve?"

PC Quinnan (Andrew Paul) comes under attack in The Bill (TIV, 8pm)

land, a top-of-the-range timber-framed kit house and a well respected small local building firm; Jan Tempest, who has three old Portakabins, the paddock of her mother's farm and a feng shai

patations or ner momer's narm and a feng shui-omsultant; and the Spatiords, who have quite a lot of financy, part of somebody's garden and a diligent, inventive young architect. Unlike tonight's Close Up film, this is unlikely to stir in viewers a longing to embark on the adventure of self-build.

Tony Patrick

Journeys Into the Outside with Jarvis Cocker

In his third and final expedition into the world of extraordinary art created by ordinary people, the pop singer visits Mexico. Cocker travels to a remote mountainous area known as Xilitla, where

in 1945 Edward James, a wealthy Englishman and friend of Salvador Dali, decided to build a Surreal

world of his own. What remains is a bizarre collection of buildings, gardens, foundains and statues which Cocker extols as a fine example of his

As a subject for a four-part radio series, the virus-

ing infectious diseases altogether, yet the virus remains the allcomers champion at killing people.

So much so that much of medical opinion, as the

first programme shows, now believes that viruses are here to stay, that they will never be conquered

and that, in their most virulent forms, they will

commue to shape our history in a way undreamt of by politicians. We discover tonight that whereas' sneering is a symptom to us, it is the route to survival for a virus.

BBC WORLD SERVICE

5.00am The World Today 7.00 World News 7.15 Octiook 7.55 My Certiny 8.00 World News 8.05 Performance 8.20 Off the Sheft Captein Corell's Mendolin 8.36 Discovery 8.00 World News 9.05 The Mouristone 9.20 Juncian Box 9.50 Sports Round-Up 10.00 Newsdesk 10.30 Smitan Today 9.44.45 Good Books 11.00 Newsdesk 11.30 Ornnibus 12.00pen World News 12.05 OutDock 12.45 Sports Round-Up 1.00 Newshour 2.06 World News 2.06 Discovery 9.30 Ch Screen 3.00 World News

may not at first seem like a prime candidate. But it is suprising how interesting the linie devils are. It is not so many years since the medical establishment felt optimistic about the chances of eliminating information.

Channel 4, 11.10pm

Virus - The Unseen Enemy

Radio 4, 9pm

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EDROFF STREET STREET

ROWING

Cambridge aim to hit the heights

BRAD CROMBIE, the Cambridge president, and Charlie Humphreys. nis Oxford counterpart, breathed a sigh of relief yesterday when, at the Boat Race crew announcement, they were able to name themselves as participants in the race this year on April 3. Over the past three years, two Cambridge presidents and one from Oxford have had to confront the Press with the news that they had not made the "cur".

The Boat Race can be watched by a potential overseas audience of 400 milion and the fact that ten of the 18 athletes named yesterday were non-British is likely to add to the international interest. Against that, those who argue that the Boat Race should be a nursery for Great Britain internationals should note that of the other eight, coxes included, seven are already on the Britain international ladder, two at senior level, three at under-23 level and two among the juniors.

The only exception is Vian Sharif, the Cambridge woman cox. Add to this the fact that six competitors out of the two crews have achieved full senior international status, with five different countries, and the Boat Race can justifiably be called an international event, although it is raced on a course far from international require-

Oxford have picked up most of the internationals this year in their quest to stop a run of six Cambridge wins and so become the first winners of the Aberdeen Asset Management Trophy. Their boat includes three former Blues — Henrik Nilsson, a Sweden international, Andrew Lindsay, of Britain, and Humphreys.

The newcomers are impressive: there are three full senior internationals in Colin von Ettingshausen, from Germany, Martin Crotty, of the United States - who was the strongest from either squad when he won the British under-23 indoor championships last November - and Morgan Crooks, of Canada. Add to these Toby Ayer, of the United States, twice an

Costa, where Jeff

Maggert chipped

for you. A playground for the

rich, its fairways are ringed by

houses of every size and type and its clanging tills and ex-tensive facilities put one in

mind of The Belfry - al-

though when last seen, there

was no one there offering to

slap some goo on your face for

£30 a cheek and label it "thera-

peutic mud that has a 40,000

year union with nature and

At this time of the year, the

temperature varies by 40F be-

tween midnight and midday.

The players in the first event of the World Golf Champion-

ship blew hot and cold, too. Though the tournament was a

welcome addition to the calen-

dar, it would benefit from some fine tuning before it re-

At \$50 a day, the tickets were expensive, which might

account for the comparatively small crowds. There were

more spectators watching Sergio Garcia win the final of the Amateur Championship at Muirfield last summer than

watched any one of the match-

es on the first day. There was never any difficulty in being

able to see from behind the ropes, even if the match involved Tiger Woods.

One of the truisms of golf is

turns here next year.

Isis performer, and Dan Snow, the youngest man in the boat at 20, and the line-up looks solid, a fact emphasised by the fact that James Roycroft and Nick Robinson, the stroke, both members of the fast Oxford crew last year, have failed to make it. Neil O'Donnell, the American cox, earned his spurs by steering Isis to victory

Cambridge have three former Blues among their number. Brad Crombie, a Canada international, is coming to his third Boat Race, having rowed on different sides in 1997 and 1998. Graham Smith, who competed for Britain at the Olympic Games in 1996, and Toby Wallace, a homegrown Cambridge product, are both in line for their second Blues.

Robin Williams, the Cambridge coach, has shown his liking for height with his selection. The Cambridge line-up is the tallest ever, with Josh West, of the United States, setting an individual Boat Race record at 6ft 9in. Kieran West, an under-23 world championships gold medal-winner for Britain, is only an inch shorter, but his lean frame has strength, as his second place behind Crotty in the indoor championships

David Ellis, the second American in the Cambridge crew, came to the Light Blues' notice when his Harvard crew beat them at Henley last year. He has been forgiven and assimilated. Tim Wooge has represented Ger-many at under-23 level. The line-up is completed by Tom Stallard, Cambridge's youngest performer and a junior world championship bronze medal-winner for Britain in 1996.

Both crews have pace and potential, although only Oxford have shown this in public, when they beat Molesey ten days ago. The build-up starts in earnest this weekend, when Cambridge race London Rowing Club and Oxford confront Tideway Scullers. Neither coach has finalised the crew order for this, the 145th Boat



Long, short and uniquely tall: Sharif, the Cambridge cox, is flanked by Kieran West, left, and Josh West, the tallest Boat Race oarsman

TO MERCHAN ENDINE PROPERTY OF PARTY OF *T.J Wallace (King Edward VI, Southempton and Jesus), 22, 6ft 7in, 15st 7lb (bow) T A Stallard (Oundle and Jesus), 20, 6ft 31/2in, 13st 8lb

*R E B Crombie (Crescent, Toronto, McGill) A J West (Santa Fe Preparatory, New Mexico, Yale and Colus), 22, 6ft 9in, 15st 2th D O M Ellis (Milton Acad, Harvard and Trinity), 23, 6ft 5in, 14st 6lb

K M West (Dulwich and Christ's), 21, 6ft 8in, 14st 11lb *G D C R Smith (Westminster, University College London and St Edmund's), 23, 6ft 394h, 14st 5lb T Wooge (Otto-Pankok-Schule, Dortmund

Univ, Northeastern Univ, US and Magdalene), 26, 6ft 7¾in, 15st 4lb (stroke) Cox: V Sharif (Lady Eleanor Holles and Clare), 19, 5ft, 7st 6lb

Maggert makes matchplay million

OXFORD UNIVERSITY *C P A Humphreys (Hampton and Oriel), 22, 6ft 31/sin, 13st 1lb (bow) *L H Wilsson (Cathedral School, Lund. University of Lund and Hertford), 30, 6ft

Univ and Peterhouse), 28, 6ft 6in, 15st 4lb DR Snow (St Paul's and Balliot), 20, 6ft 6in, 15st 9lb

T H Ayer (Burlington HS, Vermont, MIT achusetts and Worcester), 24, 6ft 5in,

M Crotty (Canisius HS, Buffalo, Princeton Univ and Keble), 23, 6ft 5in, 14st 12ib M A L Crooks (Brentwood College, Mili Bay and St Anne's), 22, 6ft 2in, 14st 1lb *A J R Lindsay (Eton and Brasenose), 22, 6ft 1in, 14st 3lb C von Ettingshausen (Gymnasium Gerresheim, Dortmund Univ and Keble), 27,

6ft 41/ain, 15st 2lb (stroke) Cox: N J O'Donnell (St Joseph's CI, Buffalo, Rutgers Univ and Keble), 23, 5ft 9in, 8st 8lb The order of the crews have not been finalised

ter chance of beating these

guys over one day than I have

over four." Over a beer, Dave

who caddies for Lee Janzen, was asked whether the play-

ers were enjoying the event.

Musgrove rubbed his face

and pondered the question.

They seemed to," he said. "All

I know is how Lee and [Phil]

Mickelson came off the 8th

green talking and laughing to

themselves about how the holes had gone first this way,

To many Americans, matchplay is incomprehensible, like

cricket, the House of Lords

and the geographical division

of the home countries. "I'm from Wales," Ian Woosnam

said when he checked in at a

tournament recently. "Ah yes." the American lady said.

That's in England, right?"

being "Up one". One specta-

tor was overheard asking an

other: "Why did he pick his

hall up?" On the morning of the final, I heard two men talk-

ing. "Do both guys play two rounds? one asked. "I'm not

sure," came the reply. "I guess

The following sentence ap-

peared in one of the most au-

gust newspapers in this country. "A definition of matchplay: if player A gets a 3 on the first hole and player B gets a

4, player B is one up after one hole." How have they ex-plained what has been going

in danger of obscuring an important truth, however. This

was an enjoyable tournament that has endured an unusual

birth. It needs nourishing. It

These sort of vigneties are

on in the Ryder Cup?

should be here to stay.

The scoreboard for

one early match in

the tournament de-

scribed the leader as

then that. They liked that."

TELEVISION CHOICE

Hollywood beckons

BBC2, 9.30pm

Although James Nutt and Roder Parsons's film is scrupulous in emphasising that 95 per cent of Hollywood screenwriters cannot make a living from it, and even fewer ever have a film made of their work, it seems bound to encourage winter-weary viewers at least to consider adding to the tens of thousands of Britons who now seek the American Dream in Los Angeles. We see four examples of what they can expect one overnight success, one consistent earner who is evidently on success, one consistent earner who is evidently of an upward curve, one rather cavalier chap who can take it or leave it and one absolute beginner with nothing more than an idea and a bank loan. Even struggling in obscurity looks good, and the glimpses of what success can bring are sectucive, even though it appears (quite accurately) that getting anywhere in LA involves a very long drive. Where did I put that plot outline I came up with?

ITV. 8pm

The first of a three-part special, written by Scott Cherry, centres on a series of assaults on pensioners. A gang of burglars are dousing the victims in petrol and threatening to torch them unless they hand over all their money and valuables, and are now carrying firearms. The aggressive DS Boulton is about to go on leave, but cancels that to take charge when he senses a possible arrest. His colleagues and juniors are less convinced that he has the right suspect, or sufficient evidence, and the subsequent raid puts a young informant in serious danger. Tonight's episode ends with PC Quinnan (Andrew Paul) in critical condition after he is set upon by a gang of youths.

House Proud BBC2, 8pm (except Scotland)

A new series, produced and directed by Robert Payton, follows the progress, over a year, of people who want to build their own homes. Tonight we meet the Shrimptons, who have a large plot of

Outsider Art. The singer then pops to Zurich and to the home of one Bruno Weber. His gardens are filled with mosaic creatures including a pair of brightly decorated "snake bridges". Ian Hughes RADIO CHOICE

Afternoon Play: People Come Here to Cry

If you would not mind if you never heard the word counselling again, this is for you. It is also for anyone wishing to hear a virtuoso acting performance, which is what we get from Sue Johnston in this monologue, Char March's first play for radio (but hopefully not her last). Johnston plays Deborah Smith, an ordinary woman from Barnsley who has reached a point in her life where she is emotionally wrung out. Her instinct seems to be against finding help, but she does so anyway and fetches up at a counselling centre in Oldham. in a room overlooking a municipal green, which is "as nurtured as a roundabout". Such witty observation leavens what is a poignant, compelling commentary on our times.

RADIO 1 (BBC)

6.30cm Zoe Ball 9.00 Simon Mayo 12.00pm Jo Whiley 2.00 Nank Raddiffe 4.00 Chris Moyles 5.45 Newsbest 6.00 Davie Pearce, Chart hits 8.00 The Evening Session. The latest music and session tracks 10.00 Digital Update 10.10 John Peel 12.00ara The Breezablock 2.00 Cive Warren 4.00 Scott Mills

RADIO 2 (BBC)

12.05 Outcok 12.45 Sports Round-Up 1.00 Newshour 2.00 World News 2.05 Discovery 2.30 Ch Sceen 3.05 World News 3.05 Sports Round-Up 3.15 Westway 2.30 Everywoman 4.00 World News 4.15 Insight 4.30 Megarrer 5.00 Europe Today 5.30 World Disiness Report 5.45 Sports Round-Up 6.00 World News 7.05 Discovery 7.30 Human Remains 7.45 Off the Shelf: Captain Corell's Mandolin 8.00 Newshour 9.00 World News 9.05 (World News 9.05 World News 9.05 (World News 10.15 Sports Round-Up 10.30 Megarror 11.00 World News 10.35 My Certary 1.00 The World Today 1.30 On Screen 2.00 The World Today 2.30 World Rusiness Report 3.45 Insight 4.00 The World Today 6.90am Sarah Kennedy 7,30 Wake Up to Wogan 9,30 Ken. Rosse 12.00am Juliet Monie 2,00 Ed Stewart 5,05 Johnnie Bruce 12.00pm Jufiet Morie 2.00 Ed Stevent 5.05 Johnnie Walker 7.00 Alan Freeman: Their Greatest Bits 8.00 Nigel Ogden 9.00 To Mother with Love: The Story of the Tattoo 10.00 The Directors: Nora Ephron (3/0) 10.30 Richard Alinson 12.00em Lynn Parsons 3.00 Alex Lester RADIO 5 LIVE (BBC)

8.00am Morning Reports 8.00 Brealdast 9.00 Nicky Campbell 12.00pm The Midday News 1.00 Ruscoe and Co 4.00 Orive 7.00 News Extray 7.30 The Tuesday Match. Action from tonight's Nationwide League programme, including Barnsley v Bradierd. Birmingham City v Norwich City and townich Town v Westiord. Plus, updates on this evening's Liefa Cup quarter-linal first-leg matches 10.00 Lete Night Live 1.00am Up All Night. TALK RADIO

6.00am The Big Boye Breaklast 9.00 Scott Chisholm & Sally James 12.00pm Crime Beat 1.00 Anna Raeburn 4.00 The Sports Zone 8.00 Cheeting Hearts 10.00 James Whale

VIRGIN

6.30mm Russ Willerms 9.30 Mark Forrest 1.00pm Nick Abbot 4.00 Hamtet Scott 6.45 Pete and Gaoff 10.00 James Mentit 1.00am Steve Power 4.30 Richard Allen

RADIO 3

6.00am On Air with Petroc Trelawny
9.00 Masterworks Includes Verdi (Overture: The Forceof Destiny); Paganini (Le streghe); Brilbins (Alto
Phapsody); Schubert (Piano Sonata in C minor)
10.30 Artist of the Week: Bernard Hattink
11.00 Sound Stories: Family Affairs Shostakovich
12.00pm Composer of the Week: Tchalitovsky
1.00 The BBC Orchestras BBC Scotlish Symphony
Orchestra under Martyn Brabbins and Osmo
Vanske, Pekda Kuusisto, violin
4.00 Volces Simon Keenlysike ()
4.45 Music Machine with Tommy Pearson 6.00am On Air with Petroc Trefa

4.45 Music Machine with Torrmy Peerson 5.00 In Tune with Sean Refferty, includes Albertz (Suite: Iberia); Copland (Clarinet Concerto) 7.00 Performance on 3 (Sounding the Century) Live from the Festival Hall, London. Ensemble 6.00em Nick Balley's Easier Breakfast, Soothing music and information updates 8.00 Henry Kely. The Hall of Farme Hour and CD of the Week 12.00pts Lunchtime Requests. Jane Jones Infroduces Isteners' insvourties 2.00 Concerto. Wensiewid (Vicán Concerto No 1 in F sharp merior) 3.00 Jamie Crick. Continuous Classics and Afternoon Romance 6.30 Newshight. Sport, finance and news updates, with John Brunning 7.00 Smooth Classics at Seven. John Brunning Introduces classical sounds 9.00 Evening Concert. Shostakovich (Jazz Suite No 2, Plano Concerto No 2, 3 Romances on Poems by Pushkirt, Symphony No 15 in A major, A Spin Through Moscow) 11.00 Menn at Night. Music through till the small hours 2.00tess Concerto. Wiensewski (Violin Concerto No 1 in F sharp minor) (f) 3.00 Mark Griffeths. The

CLASSIC FM

Concerto No 1 in F sharp minor) (f) 3.00 Mark Griffiths. The Early Breaklast Show

InterContemporain, Philinamonia under Pierre
Boulez, Schoenberg (Chamber Symphony No 1);
Webern (Five Piaces for Small Orchestra, Op 10);
Schoenberg (Lied der Wakitaube, Gurrelider) 8.15
Pierre Boulez (r) 8.35 Mahler (Fluckert-Lieder);
Schoenberg (Variations for crohestra)
9.30 Postscript: Cultural Nationalism (2/5)
9.55 Britten-Pears Ensemble With Jain Burnside,
piano, Prokoliev (Overture on Hebrew Themes);
Martin (Piano Quintet); Johann Strauss, son, arr
Schoenberg (Kaiser-Walzer) (r)
10.45 Night Waves A look at the long-awaited return of
the film director Terrence Malick
11.30 Jazz Notes Alyn Shipton presents the more from
John Etheridge's tribute to Stephane Grappelii
12.00am Composer of the Weels: Copland (r)
1.00 Through the Night

RADIO 4

5.30am World News 5.35 Shipping Forecast
5.40 Inshore Forecast 5.45 Prayer for the Day
5.47 Farming Today 6.00 Today
8.35 (LW) Yesterday in Parliament
9.00 Unreliable Evidence with Cive Anderson
9.30 Home Thoughts Nick Baker peruses The Journal
9.45 (LW) Daily Service
9.45 (LW) Seriat Zarata (2/5)
10.00 Women's Hour with Martina Keerney
11.00 Nature with Howard Stableford (1)
11.30 Coming Alive by Jim Editigs
12.00 (FW) News 12.04 You and Yours
1.00 The World at One 1.30 My Mistress Music
2.00 The Archers Broadcast yesterday (1)
2.15 Afternoon Play: People Come Here to Cry
Char March's monologue, See Choice (1)
3.00 The Exchange 0670 010 0444
3.30 First Nights (1) 3.45 This Sceptred Iste (1)

4.00 The Learning Curve with the Times columnist
Libby Purves 4.30 Shop Talk
5.00 PM with Clare English and Chris Lowe
6.00 Str O'Clock News 6.30 Mammon (3/6)
7.00 The Archers Pat refuses to stay put
7.15 Front Row with Francine Stock
7.45 The Cry of the Bittern (r)
8.00 File on 4 8.40 in Touch with Peter White
9.00 Virus: the Unseen Enemy See Choice (1/4)
9.30 Unreliable Evidence (r)
10.00 The World Tonight Presented by Justin Webb
10.45 Book at Bedtime: Ernest Hemingway
Ceratenary — The Sun Also Rises (r)
11.00 Late Night on 4: The Also Davies Show (r)
11.30 (FM) Talking Pictures Weeldy guide to tims
12.00 am News 12.30 The Late Book: Five Stories by
Anton Chetchov — A Play (r)
12.48 Shipping Forecast 1.00 As World Service

FREQUENCY GUIDE. RADIO 1. FM 97.5-99.8. RADIO 2. FM 88.0-90.2. RADIO 3. FM 90.2-92.4. RADIO 4. FM 92.4-94.6; LW 196; MW 720. RADIO 5 LIVE. MW 693, 909. WORLD SERVICE. MW 648; LW 198 (12.45-5.55am). CLASSIC FM. FM 100-102. VIRGIN RADIO. FM 105.8; MW 1197, 1215. TALK RADIO. MW 1053, 1089. Talevision and radio liadings compiled by lan Hughes, Rosemary Smith, Susan Thomson, Jane Gregory and

JOHN et \$1 million, the biggest cheque of his life, in the inau-**HOPKINS** gural Andersen Consulting Match Play Championship on Sunday. Money, money, money. "I thought about the money all day," Andrew Magee, who lost to Maggert at the second extra hole in the 36-hole final said. Poor Magee. He won only \$500,000. If your pockets are deeply lined and you covet a facial for £60. La Costa is the place

that, in strokeplay events, the best players win those tournaments held on the most difficult courses. The course here

Ideally, it would have been better to have played one round on Friday and two on Saturday, but television wanted to build in some spare time at the weekend in case the weather was bad. That consideration apart, playing the

quarter-finals and semi-finals was not difficult enough.

on Saturday would have been more exciting and might have done more to draw the crowds. A British voice, one steened in the lore of matchplay, would have added an extra dimension to the television coverage of ABC.

Nevertheless, this tournament bore out the basic truth of matchplay conducted over

ryone had an opinion as to why there had been such a culling of seeds that the final was played between the world No 24 and No 50 in a field of 64. The most common verdict was "that's matchplay", although Steve Pate put it rath-

"Matchplay is good for me," Pate, a losing semi-finalist, said. "I figure I've got a bet-

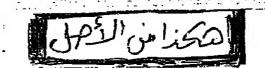
imprecise science. Almost eve-





Maggert, left, celebrates with his caddie after holing the chip shot worth \$1 million

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A perfect mixture of bonds and betrayals

s Adrian Shergold's camera peers up at him through the keyhole of a manhole cover (look, by this stage of BBC2's Births, Marriages and Deaths we have not only grown used to cameras held at angles unknown to Euclid, we would be disappointed to be now denied them), Ray Winstone's Alan shares with his mate Graham a metaphysical conundrum not previously chewed upon by Aristotle.

You know," he starts hesitantly, "you can't build sandcastles out of dry sand, and, well, you can out of wet sand? But how comes a sandcastle can still stand even though the sun dries it out?"

"Dunno," replies Phil Davis's Graham, a human cocktail made from equal measures of gormlessness, grief and rage. Graham has never swum effortlessly through life. He is now barely managing to keep his head above water, having just discovered that his wife - his

schoolgirl sweetheart — had had a rage, later slips back to his council baby at 15, given up for adoption. flat to — one assumes — end his Oh yes, and the council has just sacked him from his job as a rat-

"It's friendship, mate. Yer know? Friendship. Don't mock it. I'm your friend. I can hold everything together, if you let me." But even Alan can't hold everything together. Fate has a way of slapping you in the face, whoever you and your friends are, and the joy of Tony Grounds's drama is the elegant, funny, tragic way it captures how quickly a life - any life - can unravel. When life trips you up, it doesn't feel as if you're fall-ing off a kerb, it feels as if you're falling off Beachy Head. "I wish," stammers Graham, struggling to give some shape to his confusion, was someone else. Anybody else. Look around, everything's so

.. normal, and ... and I'm the only one in agony."
Graham, still inarticulate with flat to - one assumes - end his own life. His wife, Molly, and Alan track him down there. They find him standing in a wheelie-bin full of cement. "Why," shrieks Molly, "would you want to set yourself in concrete?" Graham seems taken aback, like a man who - halfway through an errand - can't for the life of him remember what the errand was. "I dunno," he croaks, finally, "I s'pose I just didn't know what else to do.

lan — who knows a bit about the building trade, having made his pile in patios — takes some solace from the fact that the proportions of sand to cement that Graham used meant that he could have been standing there till Christmas and the mixture still wouldn't have hardened; also from the fact that Graham had carefully surrounded the area with plastic sheets to

REVIEW



Joe Joseph

avoid staining the carpets. The comedic undertow flavours but never overpowers the drama. The plot? It's as carefully arranged as an ambassador's dining table. Twists, tensions. bonds and betrayals are deftly woven together so that their repercussions are rarely Tannoyed to us in advance. Even when we know that Alan will have to pay a price after confessing to his wife about what circumstances he will have to pay it. When Terry (Mark Strong) decided last night to take up Alan's offer of a job, but then later obeyed. his wife over Alan, you knew that sooner or later Terry would have to pay for his betrayal, but you would never be able to guess how. And when Alan craves a red

Corniche in the window of a Rolls-Royce showroom at the start of the episode, you might have imagined that he would end up buying it. But you would never have dreamt that in the final scene it would by Terry's wife's body smashing against the Corniche's windscreen as Alan accidentally hits her in his rush to the police station to sort out the arrest of his daughter for trespass. It's like playing chase the lady with a card-sharp and being caught napping, again and again. Staggeringly good.

But life is every bit as unpredicta-

CENTRAL

(1) (6305796) 5.20-5.30 Aslan Eye (3775086)

As HTV West except: 12.15pm-12.27 Westcountry News (1) (4480734) 12.27-12.30 Illuminations (7636821) 1.00 Emmerdale (r)

(1) (55918) 1.30 The Jerry Springer Show (1) (6192111) 2.15-2.45 Home and Away (1) (850395) 3.20-3.25 Westcountry News;

Weather (1) (4153043) 5.08 Birthday People (8460424) 5.10-5.40 Home and Away (1) (7235937) 6.00-7.00 Westcountry Live (1)

(66463) 7.30-8.00 Stranger than Fiction (1/6) (1) (27) 10.30-10.40 Westcountry News; Weather (1) (498685) 12.15am-12.45 Power

As HTV West except: 12.15pm-12.30 Meridian News; Weather (4480734) 5.10-5.40 Home and Away (1) (7235937) 6.00 Meridian Tonight (1) (63) 6.30-7.00 Surprise Chefs (7/10) (43) 7.30-8.00 Wildlife SOS (27) 10.30-10.40 Meridian News; Weather (1) (496635) 12.15am-12.45 Pier Pressure (1) (54048) 5.00-5.30 Freescreen (1) (77932)

As HTV West except: 12,19pm Anglia Air Watch (7647937) 12,20-12,30 Anglia News and Weather (762882);5.10-5,40-Home and Away (1) (7235937) 5.59 Anglia Weather (T):

(208802) 6.00 Anglia News [1] (63) 6.30-7.00 About Anglia (43) 7.30-8.00 Out to Lunch with Brian Turner (1/13) (27) 10.29 Anglia Air

and Weather (T) (498685) 11.45-12.45

Starts: 6.00am Sesame Street (r) (88260444) 7.00 The Big Breakfast (67213173) 9.00

etch (519869) 10.30-10.40 A

Midweek Kick-Off (97 647)

Game (r) (54048)

visiting prostitutes, we can't count ble as fiction. Dr Robert Ballard hosted by a tuxedoed Telly on knowing where, or when, or in also had no inkling of the likely Savalas, courtroom battles, and consequences of his discovery in 1985 of the wreck of Titanic. Having devoted his life to finding the most famous wreck in the world - yes, even more famous than Keith Richards - Ballard is now one of the loudest voices opposing the lifting of artefacts from the wreck.

> n Channel 4's entertaining film. To The Ends of The Earth: The Battle for Titanic which seemed to lend support to Lew Grade's conclusion that when it comes to raising Titanic it can work out to be far less trouble to lower the Atlantic - Ballard likens it to "stripping the old lady of her jewellery in her grave". Ballard clearly had no idea that

his discovery would result in greed, obsession, Cold War intrigue, a cheesy TV special featuring some of the recovered relics

Celine Dion. These in turn spawned their own unexpected Titanic consequences, including (a) more Britons choosing Celine Dion singing the theme tune to the movie, Titanic, as their preferred choice of music at their funerals; and (b) worldwide fascination in Kate Winslet's bodyweight.

Yet more unexpected consequences in Tribe: The King of The Car Park, a new BBC2 series about the way young people lead their lives; the main unexpected consequence being that those young boys and girls you coo over in their cots might one day grow up into teenagers like Matthew and his pals, who think that spending your evenings in the McDonald's car park in Harlow turning the tread off your dad's car tyres constitutes an enthralling social life. Even Graham's life has more going for it than this.

BBC1

6.00am Business Breakfast (14734) 7.00 BBC Breakfast News (T) (50463) 9.00 Kilroy (T) (2984111) 9.45 The Vanessa Show (T) (7442173) 10.55 News; Weather (T) (3433937) 11.00 Change That (3443314)

11.25 Can't Cook, Won't Cook (T) (3413173) 11.55 News; Weather (T) (7391111) 12,00pm Call My Bluff (21802) 12.30 Wipcout (4974869) 12.35 The Weather Show (1) (53018869)

1:00 One O'Clock News (T) (53550) 1.30 Regional News; Weather (59930444) 1.40 Neighbours (T) (35070802) 2.05 Ironside Ed is contronted by a aggressive LA cops (r) (5291647)

2.55 Through the Keyhole (r) (1) (1197662) 3.25 Children's BBC: Playdays (6837444) 3.45 Enchanted Lands: The Adventures of the Wishing Chair (5482395) 3.55 Hububb (9112227) 4.10 Chipmunks Go to the Movies (5874598) 4.35 The Realty Wild Show (3411647) 5.00 Newsround (4176173) 5.10 Grange Hill (9863260)

5.33 Rewind (T) (234227) 5.35 Neighbours (r) (T) (464918) 6.00 Six O'Clock News; Weather (1) (95) 6,30 Regional News Magazine (47)

7.00 Holiday Jill Dando rides the trail in the American West (T) (7444) 7.30 EastEnders Frank takes Peggy for her biopsy (T) (31)

8.00 Holby City Muriel McKendrick finds an old colleague a bit of a handful as a patient (T) (4463) 9.00 Nine O'Clock News; Regional News;

Weather (T) (3463) 9.30 Workers at War Graduates are subjected to a weekend of gruelling scrutiny at the IBM assessment centre. Last in series (T) (76840) 10.00 Naked Gun 33 1/3: The Final Insult



advertising executive (11.20pm)

11.20 Crazy People (1990) Dudley Moore stars in this screwball comedy about an executive committed to a mental institution. Directed by Tony Bill (T) (650043) 12.45am Jinoredi (1982) Comedy about a blackjack dealer who sets about seducing the griffriend of a winning customer. Don Siegel directs (215951)

2.20 Weather (9000512)

2.25 BBC News 24 (58065680)

9.30 Week in Week Out (76840) 10.00 The Next Files (609821) 10.10 Workers at War (T) (737043) 10.40 FILM: Naked Gun 33 1/3: The Final Insult (1) (1117314) 11.55 FILM: Crazy People (T) (807024) 1.25em FiLM: Jinxed! (911864) 3.00 News (T) (39979339) 3.05-6.00

BBC2

7.00am Children's BBC Breakfast Show-Pirgu 7.05 Telebubbies 7.30 Snorks 7.50 Blue Peter 8.20 Taz-Mania 8.40 Polika Dot Shorts 8.50 Pingu 9.00 German Globo 9.05 Halfo aus Berlin 9.10 Working It Out 9.25 Music Makers 9.45 Numbertime 10.00 Teletubbies 10.30 Watch 10.45 Science Zone 11.05 Space Ark 11.15 Megamaths 11.35 Words and Ark 11.15 Megemeths 11.35 Words and Pictures 11.50 D-Mag 12.10pm English Express 12.30 Working Lunch 1.00 Oakle Doke (58337444) 1.10 The House Detectives (r) 1.40 Hart-Davis on History 2.10 Awash with Colour 2.40 News; Weather (T) 2.45 Westminster (T) 3.25 News; Weather (1) 3.30 The Village (r) 3.55 Kaye 4.25 Ready, Steady, Cook (1) 4.55 Esther (1) 5.30 Today's the Day (1)

6.00 The Fresh Prince of Bel-Air Cornedy, starring Will Smith (r) (T) (593482)
6.25 Heartbreak High Ryan gets tough after a bad experience (T) (917937)



Music news with Jayne Middlemiss and Jamie Theakston (7.10pm)

7.10 The O Zone P.J. Harvey talks to Jamie Theakston and Jayne Middlemiss meets the Supernaturals (T) (788918) 7.30 From the Edge Users' guide to the new welfare reforms for the disabled (T) (73)

8.00 House Proud New series following the construction of self-built dream houses (1/4) (T) (4734) 8.30 Your Money or Your Life New series. Fi show with the human touch (T) (3869) 9.00 Home Front in the Garden (T) (1005)

9.30 CHOICE Close Up The progress of four British screenwriters in Hollywood (3/6) (T) (164666)

10.20 Coming Clean: The Truth About Housework Children's views of housework (T) (239111) 10.30 Newsnight (T) (175192) 11.10 Seinfeld Kramer designs a bra for men

(1) (100918) 11.35 The Larry Sanders Show Larry's future looks bleak. Last in series (T) (981005) 11.55 Weather (406024)

12.00am Despatch Box (82203) 12.30 BBC Learning Zone: Open University. Linkage Mechanisms 1.00 The Programmers 1.30 The Arch Never Sleeps 2.60 Schools: Marsalis on Music/Talent 2000 Shorts 4.00 Discovering Portuguese/Portuguese Dis-covered 5.00 Business and Training: Career Moves 5.45 Open University: Towards a Better Life 6.10 The Emergence of Greek Mathematics 6.35 The Location Problem

WALES:

6.25pm From the Edge (T) (578173) 6.55 Monet's Garden (4/5) (797531) 7.05 FAW Premier Cup (79586314) 9.20 Your Money or Your Life (T) (313192) 9.50-10.20 House Proud (1/4) (T) (467647) 11.10-11.55 Close

5.30am ITN Morning News (67314) 6.00 GMTV (5155869

9.25 Trisha (T) (8387598) 10.30 Tbis Morning (T) (44992192) 12.15pm HTV News (T) (4480734)

(58444)
1.00 Shortland Street The nurses suspect a plot (55918)

1.30 Home and Away Joel causes a scene (T) (80043) 2.00 The Jerry Springer Show Outrageous American talk show (T) (5777260)

2.45 Wheel of Fortune (T) (859666) 3.15 ITN News Headlines (1) (4123802) 3.20 HTV News (1) (4153043) 3.25 CITV: Mopatop's Shop (4143666) 3.35 Rosie and Jlm (9187531) 3.50 The

Wombles (5474376) 4.00 Rupert. (6560395) 4.25 Mike and Angelo (5857821) 4.50 How 2 (3799591) 5.10 A Country Practice Claire helps grieving parents (7235937) 5.40 ITN Early Evening News (T) (980127) 5.58 HTV Crimestoppers (208802) 6.00 Home and Away (r) (T) (597208)

6.25 WALES: Wales Tonight (T) (267444) 6.25 WEST: HTV Weather (650376) 6.30 WEST: The West Tonight (1) (43) 7.00 Emmerdale Stella confronts Pollard (T) 7.30 WEST: West Eye View Current affairs reports from around the region (27)

7.30 WALES: Fishlock's Wild Tracks The Lleyn Peninsula. Last in series (T) (27) 8.00 CHOICE The Bill First of a three-part story (1) (9531) 9.00 Peak Practice The arrival of new locum

Dr Sam Morgan at the Beeches sets female hearts a-flutter (1) (9395) 10.00 News at Ten; Weather (T) (57227) 19.30 HTV News and Weather (T) (498685)



10.40 Driving Ambition: A Season with Eddie Jordan Profile of the motor racing entrepreneur (7) (281192) 11.40 The Big Match Preview of the European

Cup quarter-finals (606802) 12.10am WEST: Pleasure Guide Regional entertainment magazine (9238406) 12.10 WALES: Tales from the Darkside:

Trick or Treat (9238406) 12.45 The Haunted Fishtank The irreverent TV review with Ed Hall (53319) 1.15 Highlander MacLeod meets a girl who is

the double of the late Tessa (r) (901319) 2.15 Judge Judy (2432932) 3.00 Wish You Were Here? (r) (12601390) 3.25 Dead Men's Tales: Hanging by a Thread by Joe Smpson. Drama about two young Britons who attempt to climb

3.55 Football Extra Football League

highlights (r) (9656951) 4,50 ITV Nightscreen (1542628)

the awesome Bonatti offar (r) (12611777)

Ysgoilon: Science in Focus (29573024) 9.20
What the Papers Said (29733579) 9.30
Eureka (74401869) 9.45 Addysg Rthyw (74499024) 10.00 The Number Crew 14446395) 10.10 TVM (91238260) 10.25 How We Used to Live (91257395) 10.45 Worlds of Faith (96547579) 11.00 First Edition (15300840) 11.15 Stage One (15390463) 11.30 Powerhouse (1) (68665753) 12.00pm Bewitched (T) (97444821) 12.30 Sesa

Street (T) (26279666) 1.00 Planed Plant (T) (67216260) 1.30 The Three Stooges (r) (37889550) 1.50 FiLM: The Lamp Still Burns (T) (78308753) 3.30 Collectors' Lot (T) (1) (7630673) 3.30 Collectors Lot (1) (67549444) 4.00 Pitteen-to-One (1) (67568579) 4.3 0 Rickl Lake (1) (67557463) 5.00 Planed Plant (90549289) 5.30 Countdown (1) (67571043) 6.00 Newyddion 6 (T) (93897376) 6.10 Heno (T) (86387579) 7.00 Pobol y Cwm (T) (90552753) 7.30 Newyddion (T) (67558192) 8.00 Y Sice Gelf (T) (90538173) (1) (6/558192) 8.00 Y soe Gerr (1) (90538173) 8.30 Pengelli (1) (90557208) 9.00 To the Ends of the Earth (2/6) (1) (37709314) 10.00 Brookside (1) (72014586) 10.35 Queer as Folk (2/8) (1) (52625260) 11.15 Boyz Unlimited (4/6) (1) (38791685) 11.45 Carry On Darkly (41479598) 12.45am Journeys Into the Outside with Jarvis Cocker (2/3) (T)

(90016241) 1.45 Diwedd 4.00 Ysgoffor

CHANNEL 4 6.00am Sesame Street (73424)

As HTV West except: 12.20pm-12.30 Centrial News; Weather (T). (7628802) 1.00 Heart of the Country (3/18) (r) (T) (55918) 1.30 The Jerry Springer Show (I) (6192111) 2.15-2.45 Home and Away (I) (850385) 3.20-3.25 Central News (I) (4153043) 5.10-5.40 Shortland Street (7235337) 6.25-7.00 Central News; Weather (I) (267444) 7.30-8.00 30 Mirutes (1/8) (27) 10.30-10.40 Central News; Weather (II) (49885) 11.40 Central Snort 7.00 The Big Breakfast (43173) 9.00 Schools: Science in Focus (4757173) 9.20 What the Papers Said (8297289) 9.30 Eureka (8142463) 9.45 Stop, Look, Listen (8147918) 10.00 The Number Crew (5468734) 10.10 TVM (9345208) 10.25 How We Used to Live (9357043) 10.45 Worlds of Faith (9687647) 11.00 First Edition IV (3551376) 11.15 Stage Weather (T) (498685) 11.40 Central News; Weather (T) (498685) 11.40 Central Sport Special (166314) 12.45em Highlander (f) (964406) 1.45 Judge Judy (9667241) 2.25 Wish You Were Here? (f) (T) (9696067) 2.50 Dead Men's Tales (f) (8173951) 3.15 Football Extra (f) (914883) 4.15 Central Jobfunder '99 One (3574227)

11.30 Powerhouse (T) (7666) 12.00pm Sesame Street (T) (47840) 12.30 Bewitched (r) (T) (89314)

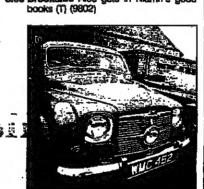
1.00 Pet Rescue Highlights (T) (46260) Guinea (r) (T) (3244956) 2.05 The Oklahoma Kid (1939) Western,

starring James Cagney as an outlaw who sets out to avenge the death of his father.
With Humphrey Bogart. Directed by Lloyd Bacon (1) (6289666)

3.30 Collectors' Lot (1) (21) 4.00 Fifteen-to-One (T) (56)

4.30 Countdown (T) (3438314) 4.55 Ricki Lake (T) (5546005) 5.30 Pet Rescue (T) (92) 6.00 Dishes Dating show (T) (55) 6.30 Home Improvement Tim is guest of honour at an awards banquet (T) (85)

7.00 Channel 4 News; Weather (T) (672647) 7.55 The 1999 Citibank Private Bank Photography Prize The work of photographer Paul M. Smith (T) (556531) 8.00 Brookside Alec gets in Niamh's good



A nostalgic look at Rover's jet-propelled cars of the 1960s (8.30pm)

8.30 Classic British Cars Rover's radical experiments with jet-propelled cars in the 1960s (2/8) (T) (8937) 9.00 The Coroner Birmingham City Coroner's Office comes under pressure to release

Muslim tradition (3/4) (T) (7937) 10.00 Father Ted Dougal and Ted produce a song for Europe (r) (T) (55869)

10.30 Queer as Folk Schoolboy Nathan relentlessly pursues Stuart, and Vince is mistakenly fixed up with a heterosexual date (2/8) (T) (160260)

11.10 CHOICE Journeys into the Outside with Jarvis Cocker Mexico and India. Last in series (3/3) (T) (514802) 12.15am Un Coeur en Hiver (1992) A violinist sets her eights on a violin-maker — only to become the object of his business partner's desire. Emmanuelle Béart and Daniel Auteuil star. Directed by Claude Sautet (467067)

2.10 French Dressing (1964) A deckchair attendant and a local reporter conspire to turn a run-down seaside town into a popular resort. Cornedy, with James Booth, Ken Russell directs (2489357) 3.35 Off Key (93403947)

4.00 Schools: Geography Junction (1260048)

CHANNEL 5

6.00am 5 News and Sport (7408294) 7.00 WideWorld Part eight. Integrating special reeds pupils in mainstrea education (r) (T) (8329227) 7.30 MHkshaket (2844753)

7.35 Wimzie's House (r) (4823482) 8.00 Havelezco (r) (2046005) 8.30 Dapplederm Farm (r) (2045376) 9.00 Instant Gardens (4/14) (r) (T) (2565983)

9.25 Russell Grant's Postcards (1) (4605024) 9.30 The Oprah Winfrey Show (3835163) 10.20 Sunset Beach Maria learns her memory

will return (T) (3892666) 11.10 Legza (4064555) 12.00pm 5 News at Noon (T) (2049192)

12.30 Family Affairs Claire wakes up battered and bruised (r) (T) (1427314) 1.00 The Bold and the Beautiful Clarke breaks his deal with Jack (T) (8328598)

1.30 The Roseanne . Show Entertainment and chat; 5 News Update (1426685) 2.00 100 Per Cent Gold (9305314) 2.30 Good Afternoon Lifestyle magazine; 5 News Update (1903802)

3.30 Joshue's Heart (TVM 1990) Emotional drama about a woman who leaves her boytriend, but can't bear to be parted from his son. Melissa Gilbert and Tim Matheson star. Directed by Michael Pressman (T) (6895799) 5.20 Sunset Beach Shown earlier (r) (T): 5 News Update (3976192)

6.00 100 Per Cent Computer-generated quit:

(2649395)
6.30 Family Affairs Claire apologises for provoking Petra (T) (2630647)
7.00 5 News; Weather Round-up of the day's stories (7) (39376802)
7.30 Champitois of Nature Conserving the natural habitat of the Canadian graziy bear (T): 5 News Update (2629531)

8.00 Crime Report Includes a report on Albert Wilson, the Dover man on death row in the Philippines (2/5) (9385550)
8-30 What's the Story? Variessa Collegridge
investigates the issues surrounding

dangerous driving, with a look at appropriate punishments for offenders and safety measures to reduce the deeth toll: 5 News Lindate (9304685 9.00 Memphis Belle (1990) Second World

War drama charting the exploits of a clean-cut American B17 bomber crew who will all be going home if they manage over Germany successfully. Starring Matthew Modine, Eric Stoltz, John Litingow, Harry Connick Jr., Tate Donovan and Billy Zane. Directed by Michael (8740208)

11.00 Two Booth lands Gus in trouble with the IRA, British Intelligence and the FBI. Drama, stairing Michael Easton

11.55 The Jack Docherty Show With music by the Stereophonics (8109840) 12.35em Live and Dangerous Sports

3.45 Asian Feofball Show Weekly round-up (7842241) 4.40 Prisoner: Cell Block H Ann receives a death threat (7330154)

5.30 100 Per Cent (r) (8004661) VIDEO Plus+ and VIDEO Plus+ codes he numbers after each programme are for VIDEO List- programming. Just enter the VIDEO Plus+ uniberts) for the relevant programme(s) into your deo recorder for easy taping.

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• For further listings see Saturday's Vision SKY ONE

SKY ONE

7.00em Count Ductaid (90109) 7.30 The Semptons (15314) 8.00 The Semptons (17005) 8.30 Holward Squares (76376) 9.00 Salv Jessy Ruphael (79173) 10.00 The Opposit Winley Show (11536) 11.00 Golly! (91734) 12.00pm Jerny Jones (1711) 1.00 Mad About You (95550) 1.30 Jeopardy (21537) 2.00 Salv Jessy Ruphael (9205) 3.00 Jerny Jones (39659) 4.00 Coulty! (18376) 5.00 Sar Trok. Voyager (1043) 8.00 America's Dumbeel Commalis (2647) 6.30 Deam Toam (8227) 7.00 The Semptons (9444) 7.30 The Semptons (9444) 7.30 The Semptons (9444) 7.30 The Semptons (9444) 7.30 The Semptons (94734) 10.00 Bloody Foreigners (1905) 11.30 Deam Team (19005) 11.30 Sar Trok. Voyager (74840) 12.30em The Commata (34390) 1.30 Long Play (7409749)

SKY BOX OFFICE Sky's pay-per-view movie channels.
To view any first selephone 0990 800888
Sky BOX OFFICE 1 (Transponder 51) The Postman (1997) SKY BOX OFFICE 2 (Transponder 60)

SKY BOX OFFICE 2 (Introponder on Good Will Hundring (1997)
SKY BOX OFFICE 3 (Transponder 59)
Good Burger (1997)
As Good as it Gets (1987)
SKY BOX OFFICE 4 (Transponder 58) FILMFOUR

6.00pm The Lost World (1960) 27114463) 7.45 The Universe of Dermot Firm (6111734) 8.00 Delicatessen (1990) (8755930) 9.40 Fouristes (5907376) 10.00 Sed Lleutenset (1982) (8504531) 11.40 Soigne Ta Droite (1966) (8482821) 1.15am Bünk (1994) (3764319) 3.00 Less Erfants Du Paradia (1945) (1003357) 8.00 Cose

SKY PREMIER 6.00am Hearts Adrift (1996) (26647) 8.00 b.Jusm Hearts Adritt (1998) (28647) 8.00
The Man Who Cophared Holmann
(1996) (71482) 10.00 Dear God (1996)
(71014) 12.00pm The Directors. The First
J. Ron Howard (81005) 12.00 Holymood.
(2005) 2.00 Hearts Adritt (1996)
(2013) 4.00 The Man Who Caphared
(Scimbann (1996) (1289) 6.00 Dear God (1996) (51579) 8.00 Grosse Pointe Blank (1997) (56034) 10.00 Siespers (1996) (2726) 753) 12.25em Moli Francisco (1999) (8356765) 2.30 North Star (1996) (4706) 4.00 Strictly Business (1991) (61932) SKY MOVIEMAX

SKY MCVIEMAX

3.35mt Life, Liberty and the Pursuit of Happiness on the Planet of the Apes (1974) (26029647) 7.10 Earth Minus Zero (1996) (732569) 9.00 Shephard on the Rock (1998) (63736) 11.00 Godzilla vs Megalon (1976) (3726) 1.00 Shephard on the Rock (1994) (65956) 3.00 Shephard on the Rock (1994) (65956) 3.00 Earth Minus Zero (1996) (86753) 7.00 Possums (1997) (90161) 9.00 in My Sister's Shadow (1997) (57753) 11.00 Body Parts (1991) (372061) 2.05 Purple Rain (1994) (667339) 3.55 Playback (1995) (323032) SKY CINEMA

4.00pm The Tin Star (1957) (7423395) 6.00 Monkey Business (1952) (2822444) 8,00 The Rain People (1963) (2834239) 10,00 Bresidest at Tifteny's (1961) (1701519) 11,55 100 Years 100 Moves. Out of Control (4561314) 12,50am TNT

9.00pm The Asgry Hills (1959) (33299665) 11.00 The Rouring Twettles (1939) (231/2007) 1.00em Eye of the Owell (1967) (45777593) 2.45 The Hill (1965) (22114766) 5.00 Close SKY SPORTS 1

7.00mm Sports Centry 7.15 V-Max 7.45
Total Sport 8.15 You're On Siry Sports 9.00
Facing News 9.30 Aerobics Oz Style 10.00
Facing News 9.30 Aerobics Oz Style 10.00
12.00pm Aerobics Oz Style 12.30 V-Max
1.00 Footbel Spocial 2.00 Sparish Footbel
5.00 World Witsstimo Federation. Let Wre 5.00 World Winstling Federation. Live Wire 6.00 Sports Centre 6.30 Inside Scottish Football 7.30 Feshax 8.00 Premier Shooker Football 7.30 Fashar, 8.00 Premer Snower League 10.00 Sports Centre 10.15 You're On Sky Sports! 11.00 Inside Scottish Football 12.00am Sports! Centre 12.15 You're On Sky Sports! 1.00 Premer Snooker League 3.00 Sports Centre 3.15 Close

SKY SPORTS 2 7.00am Aerobos Oz Style 7.30 Sports Certiro 7.45 Razing News 8.15 Moto-Pus 8.45 Sports Contre 9.00 Feb TV 10.00 for Hockey 12.00pm International Bowls 2.00 Powerbook and Jessy World 2.30 Total Sport 3.00 World Motor Sport 8.30 Festivas

> orts Centre 2.45 Close SKY SPORTS 3 12.00pm World Wrestling Federation. Live Wire 1.00 Fish TV 2.00 A to 2 of Motor Sport 2.30 Wendorful World of Golf 3.30 International Bowls 5.30 Shouthcarding 6.00 Cycling 6.30 Fish TV 7.20 Snowboarding 6.00 Anging 10.00 The Entertainers 10.30 Boxing Superbouts 11.30 Close

> EUROSPORT 7.30m Arherica 8.30 Nordic Swing 10.00 Bathlon 11.00 Footbalk Europoals 12.30pm Ecupstransm 1.30 Dog Sed Racing 2.00 Nordic Swing 3.00 Live Euthlori 4.00 Footbal Eurogoals 5.30 Trai 7.00 Strongman 8.00 Footbal 8.30 Live Footbal 10.30 Footbal 12.30ms Close

UK GOLD

When the Soat Cornes in 10.30 Rhods 11.00 Dakes 11.55 Neighbours 12.25pm EastEnders 1.00 Julet Bravo 2.00 Calast 2.55 The Bit 3.25 EpstEnders 4.30 Rhods 5.00 Al Cleatures Great and Small 6.00 Dynasty 7.00 2ppent Children 7.40 Dad's Army 8.20 The Britas Empire 9.00 Red Dwerf 8.40 Clime Traveller 10.45 Bug. 11.50 The Bit 12.20mm The Bit 12.50 Electadors 1 1.35 Franch and Saunders 2.00 Clargerfield 3.08 Shopping with Screenstop GRANADA PLUS

6.00am Within These Midds 7.00 Bowler 7.30 Doctor at Large 8.00 Halletyah 8.20 The Many Wives of Patrick 9.00 Classic Coronaton Sires 9.30 Environmendale Fam 1.00 The Gortle Touch 12.00pm Classic Coronation Sires 12.30 Emmerdiale Fam 1.00 The Jam Web of Patrick 1.3 that and Mid Gild.

Many Wive of Patrick 1.30 Me and My Girl

7,00mm Crossroads 7,30 Naighbours 7,55 EastEnders 8,30 The 6,8 9,00 The 64 9,30 When the Boat Cornes in 10,30 Rhods

boat 4.09 in Professores 6.00 Net to Hart 6.00 Entmerdale Farm 6.30 Cassa: Coronation Street 7.00 The Professionals 6.00 The Benny Hill Show 8.00 Sweeney 10.00 The Brain Conley Show 10.30 Wheelbappers and Shurters' Social Cub 11.00 Granade Men and Motors **CARLTON SELECT**

DISNEY CHANNEL 8.00em Gummi Bere 6.25 Clasac Toons 6.35 Tale Spin 7.00 Classic Toons 7.10 Aladdin 7.35 101 Delmatians 8.00 Good Troop 8.25 Classic Toons 8.45 New Advertures of Spot 9.05 Animal Shelf 9.15 Pocket Dragons 9.30 Bear in the 8tg Blue House 9.95 The Toolthbrush Family 10.00 Bite Size 10.10 Rose and Jem 10.30 The 8.00 Sesame Street 12.00em The



Boat 4.00 The Prolessonats 5.00 Hart to

5.00pm What's Cooking? 5.20 Gndlock 6.00 London Bridge 6.30 Get Beck 7.00 Boon 8.00 Chancer 9.00 The Upper Hand 9.30 Flying Start 10.00 Peak Practice 11.00 Hat Street Blues 12.00em Us and Them

Adventures of Spot 12.05 Animal Shatt 12.15 Pocket Dragons 12.30 Bear in the Big Blue House 12.95 The Toothbrush Family 1.00 Bite Size 1.10 Rosie and Jim 1.30 The Big Garage 1.45 PB and J Otter 2.00 New Adventures of Winne the Poch 2.00 New Adventures of Winne the Poch 2.30 Queck Pack 3.00 The Little Mermaldt 3.30 Art Allack 4.00 101 Delmatisms 4.30 Hercules: The TV Show 5.00 Recess 5.15 Papper Am 5.30 Smart Guy 6.00 Teen Angel 6.30 Boy Meets World 7.00 Fillatt Mail to the Chilef (1998) 8.30 Horsey, J Shrunk the Xids: The TV Show 9.15 Doubte Dinosaurs 10.00 Home Improvement 10.30 Dinosaus 10.00 Home Improvement 10.30 The Wonder Years 11.00 Dr Curric Medicine Worken 12.00mm Close

6.00cm Adventures of Dodo 6.06 Power Rangers Furbo 6.30 Power Rangers Turbo 6.55 Spidentan 7.20 Oggy and the Cockroaches 7.30 Doniley Kong County 6.00 Hero Turtes: The Next Mutathon 8.25 The Incredible Hulk 8.50 hon Man 9.15 Fartestic Four 9.40 **Men 10.05 Casper 10.30 Oggy and the Cockroaches 10.55 ara 11.05 Bobby's Wor

11.30 Life with Louis 11.55 Home to Rent
12.05pm Dennis and Grasher 12.30
Donkey Kong Country 1.00 Mongai: The
New Adventures of Jungle Book 1.25 Ace
Ventura 1.55 The Inversible Hutt 2.20 Iron
Man 2.45 Fantasitic Four 3.10 X-Men 3.20
X-Press 3.25 Spidemen 4.00 Goosebum
ps 4.25 Hero Turtles. The Next Mutation
4.50 Casper 5.00 Dennis and Grasher
5.30 Ace Ventura 6.00 Donkey Kong
Country 6.30 EekStravaganza 6.55 Oggy
and the Coderoaches 7.00 Closs
MICNOS CODECOM NICKELODEON

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6.00am Roden's Modern Life 6.30 Bruno the Kid 7.00 CatDog 7.30 Rugrats 8.00 The Wild Thomberlys 8.30 Arthur 9.00 Children's 89C 10.00 Winton's House 10.30 Papa Beaver Stokes 11.00 The Magic School Bus 11.30 PB Beav/Sudge the Lifle Helicopter/Anemal Antics/Family Ness 12.00pm Rugrats 12.30 Bue's Clues 1.00 Banarias in Pylamas 1.30 Linle Bear Stones 2.00 Paddington Bear/Lizze's Library/Pontand Bill/Mr Men 2.30 Children's BBC 3.30 Doug 4.00 Three Financia and Jany 4.30 Rugrats 5.00 Sasier Sisier 5.30 Kensin and Kal 6.00 Renford Rejects 6.30 Moesha 7.00 Close RIR AVO BRAVO

8.00pm Martai Law 9.00 Extreme Champ-v onship Wresting 9.30 Cops 10.00 The Late Lourge 10.30 Erobo Confessions 11.00 FILM: The Punisher (1990) 1.00am Erotic Cordessons 1.30 The Late Louinge 2.00 Marcal Law 3.00 FiLM: Peridemon-lum (1982) 5.00 Entreme Championship Wrestling 5.30 Caps 6.00 Close PARAMOUNT COMEDY 7.00pm Jenny 7.30 Grace Under Fire 8.00

7.00pm Jamy 7.30 Grace Troop Fire Soul Ben 8.30 NewsRadto 9.00 Drop the Dead Donkey 9.30 Whose Line is it Anyway² 10.00 Fraser 10.30 Chees 11.00 Senset 11.30 The Larry Sanders Show 12.00em. Late Night with David Lettermen 1.00 Fad 1.30 Frontine 2.00 Dr Ketz 2.30 Tibs and THE SCI-FI CHANNEL

SATELLITE: 8pm-MIDNIGHT ONLY 7.30am Biomninery Information Television 8.00 Signaings 9.00 Buck Flogers in the 25th Century 10.00 Cusmum Leap 11.20 Dark Shadows 11.30 New Afred Facincock 12.00pm The Twilight Zone 12.30 The Twilight Zone 1.00 Tales of the Unexpected 1.30 Tales of the Unexpected 2.00 Amazing Stories 2.30 Mysterns, Magic and Miracles 3.00 Buck Rogers in the 25th Century 4.00 The Incredible Hulk 5.00 Sightings 6.00 Time Tray 7.00 Quentum Leap 8.00 V 9.00 Twin Peaks 10.00 FRUM: Phate (1995) 11.45 Sci-Focus Special 2.00cm Dark Skes 1.00 FRUM: Spaceballs (1987) 3.00 The Twight Zone 3.30 Dark Shadows 4.00 Close HOME & LEISURE

CONT. Coday's Gournet 8.30 Gestiem Kert, 7.00 Room Service 7.30 The Painted House 8.00 Wedding Story 8.30 A Beby Story, 9.00 Simply Painting 9.30 Potted History 10.00 Real Gerdens 10.30 Cooleabout with Greg and Max 11.00 The Dicemen 17.25 The Home and Lessue House 17.30 Fishing Australia 12.00pm Our House Down Under 12.30 Antiques Trail 1.00 Our House 1.30 Hometime 2.00 New Yenkee Workshop 2.30 Hometime 2.00 New Yenkee Workshop 2.30 Home Again with Bob Vila 3.00 The Old House with Steve and Norm 3.30 Go Fishing DISCOVERY

4.00pm Rex Hunt Fishing Adventures 4.30 Walter's World 5.00 Time Travellers 5.30 Terra X 6.00 Wildlife SOS 6.30 Adventures Terra X 6.000 Wilsse S.U.S 6.300 Adventures of the Quest 7.300 The Quest 8.00 Great Escapes 8.30 Out There 9.00 Traibistzers 10.00 Pedal lot the Planet 11.00 Force 21 12.00am Spell of the North 1.00 Terra X 1.30 Time Travellers 2.00 Close ANIMAL PLANET

12.00pm The New Adventures of Black Beauty 12.30 Hobywood Salam 1.30 Crocodia Hunter 2.00 Breed All About It. Carm Tomer 2.30 Human/Nature 3.30 Harry's Practice 4.00 Jack Harne's 2.00 Lite 4.30 Animal Doctor 5.00 Pet Rescue 5.30 Crocodie Hunters 5.00 The New Adventures of Black Beauty 8.30 Lassie 7.00 Rediscovery of the World 8.00 Annea Doctor 8.30 Totally Australia >9.30 Emergency Vets 10.00 The Last Paradiset 10.30 Annea Detectives 11.00 Algerd TV 11.30 Emercency Vets 12.00mm Cose NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC 7.00pm Lights' Cameral Bugs' 7.30 Clan of the Crocodile 8.00 Kingdom of the Sear 9.00 Matural Born Killers: Jogues — Year of the Cat 10.00 The Serpen's Delegin 10.30 Mase: The Crimp That's a Problem 11.00 Whele's Tals 12.00em The Shark Files HISTORY

4.00pts The Clash of Wings: The Plunge-into Reality 5.00 The Avorati Carriery 6.00 Riterrol Death 7.00 Bornbs

CONLTON FOOD CONTITON FOOD

Salinia Food Network Daily 9.30 Coson's History College 10.00 The Green Gournet 10.30 Alley and Cooling 11.00 Worral Trategior Cools 11.30 A Sice of the Action 12.00pm Food Network Daily 12.30 Loyd's Loueigna 1.00 Coson's Kinchen College 1.30 Thoroughly Modern Brassh 2.00 Cites Branc 2.30 Food Network Daily 3.00 Winter Nosh 3.30 A Sice of the Action 4.90 Tessa's Tastebuds 4.30 Lunch with Ed Bance Scho Close

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ATHLETICS 44

Why the millennium could make a world of difference to Lewis

SP()RT

ROWING 50

Sharif faces up to a tall order in the Boat Race



TUESDAY MARCH 2 1999

Atherton and Thorpe among quartet given fortnight to prove fitness

England set World Cup deadline

By RICHARD HOBSON

ALTHOUGH England became the first of the Test-playing countries to announce their squad for the World Cup yesterday, the 15 players named by David Graveney may not be those who open the tournament against Sri Lanka on May 14. In effect, the party amounts to little more than a declaration of hope and intent.

Four of those chosen -Michael Atherton, Graham Thorpe, Neil Fairbrother and lan Austin — will undergo fit-ness tests within the next fortnight and if any of the quartet fails what Graveney described as "a rigorous assessment", a replacement will be announced on March 15. The selectors have decided

SQUAD

to issue this early deadline even though the final 15 does not have to be lodged until March 31. There is still the provision to replace anybody injured during the Champions' Cup in Sharjah, a triangular tournament involving India, Pakistan and England, from April 8 to 16.

Graveney, the chairman of selectors, said: "On March 15 it will not be good enough to say: 'Oh well, they'll be alright in four or five weeks' time." If there is any doubt at all. we cannot afford to fudge the issue because the competition is 100 important. The frequency with which Atherton's back has been flaring up was considered, but he will be rested over a number of days and we are confident he will come

through it." The squad leaving for Sharjah via Pakistan on March 29 contains ten players who featured in the recent one-day ton, Thorpe, Austin, Andrew Flintoff and Angus Fraser. Vince Wells will act as the reserve wicketkeeper to Alec Stewart, the captain, Those who can consider themselves

Graveney, the chairman of selectors, said that no risks would be taken with players' fitness when he announced the squad yesterday. Photograph: Laurence Griffiths/Allsport

unlucky to have been omitted are Nasser Hussain and Dean Headley. Both were prominent in Australia and Graveney telephoned Hussain, as well as Mark Alleyne and the decision yesterday morn-ing. The omission of Ashley Giles means that Graham Hick will support Robert Croft in the spinner's role.

Graveney said that Ather-

ton's back problem is different from the one that troubled him in Australia. As for Thorpe, he began a programme of rehabilitation specifically geared towards the World Cup when he Test match in Adelaide.

With the exception of Hick. the batting left much to be de-sired in the subsequent oneday games. Fairbrother has become increasingly prone to hamstring problems while Austin has undergone a knee operation.

The white ball used for the tournament is notorious for swinging and seaming more than the red variety and Atherton's ability to work singles provides an alternative to batsmen who prefer to hit through the line. The latter group will struggle on overcast mornings. Equally, Fraser and Austin have been chosen to exploit these conditions.

Graveney said: "There were areas of our batting that caused concern in Australia. Atherton's record in this coun-

absence from the middle order has been a big loss in five-day and one-day cricket. To go back to . . . two of our most explayers makes perienced

try is impressive and Thorpe's drilled athleticism of Australia and South Africa, the squad does not inspire great confi-dence in the field, even with everybody fully fit. Graveney said, not entirely convincingly. ense." that "weaknesses you may per-Compared with the well- ceive will not be weaknesses".

Flintoff makes most of slim tour chance

FIGURES have not always been kind to Andrew Flintoff. When he last played for England, in the final Test match against South Africa at Headingley, he failed to score a run or take a wicket (Thrasy Petro-

poulos writes). Of greater concern was the condition of his lower back, which, with the excess weight he was carrying, had restrict-ed his bowling. Flintoff proba-bly benefited from having been omitted from the winter Test and one-day tour parties

to Australia, being sent in-stead to Zimbabwe and South Africa with the A team. He has been the outstanding batsman on the tour, averaging 78 in first-class matches, and the

most effective one-day bowler.
"I lost about 2st before coming on tour," he said. "I did a lot of training and got a lot fit-ter. It seems to have paid off. Now I'm getting back into it showling again, it's given me a tremendous boost. Hopefully, I can bring it up to what it

Celtic lost that match 2-1

match on March 17, instead of

but he acknowledged that "our fielding will have to be up by 5 or 10 per cent".

placement of players come into force on May 2. After that

date, a tournament panel of

three doctors must assess any

injury before approving a

change and the unfit player

the squad. England have been led to believe that they can re-

place somebody even if the in-

jury is a recurrence of an old

problem. In other words, Affi-

erton could still be withdrawn

during the tournament if his

back flares up again, however

many fitness tests he passes be-

Cork back in fold, page 49

Stater left out, page 49

forehand.

Flintoff, 21, the Lancashire all-rounder, is uncapped at one-day level but he made two South Africa last summer. He owes his selection to an impressive A tour of Zimbabwe and South Africa, the deciine of Ben Hollioake and the unpredictability of Chris Lewis. The decision occupied a good proportion of a meeting lasting six

We have lost six of our past seven one-day games and we felt that a new, young player was the right way to go," Gra-veney said. "We had to point out to him at the end of last summer the levels of fitness required to play international cricket. People who have seen him in domestic cricket have no doubt about his ability. He has lost weight and done what we asked. He gives us another option at No 6 and could open

the batting."

Competition rules on the re-

At the time, Celtic were told that Cadete's ITC was invalid.

FA asks to view Le Saux video

BY MATT DICKINSON AND STEPHEN WOOD

GRAEME LE SAUX'S hopes of avoiding detection and pun-ishment for his sty assault on Robbie Fowler in the FA Car-ling Premiership match between Chelsea and Liverpool last Saturday were foiled yesterday when the Football Association asked the BBC for its videotape of the incident, in which the Chelsea defender appeared to elbow his Liverpool opponent in the back of the

The England full back can expect the minimum punish ment of a three-match ban, but there will have been surprise and disappointment at Antield last night at the revelation that Fowler is also likely to face action. Gérard Houllier, the Liverpool manager, has also been charged with misconduct for remarks that he was said have made about Mike Reed, the referee, who sent of Jamie Carragher in a match at The Valley last month, in which Charlton Athletic beat Liverpool 1-0.

Fowler, who was booked for a foul on Le Saux on Saturday, further enraged his opponent by turning his back on him at the subsequent free kick and then sticking out his backside. The FA may deem Fowler's taunting actions worthy of punishment, although he is unlikely to receive worse than a fine. Le Saux, who was cautioned for time-wasting during Chelsea's 2-1 victory, has little chance of getting off as lightly after another episode that has exposed how brittle his temper

Hot-headed enough to punch David Batty, a Blackburn Rovers team-mate, during a European Cup match, Le Saux is not quite the aesthetic. thinking man's footballer that he is often portrayed to be. He was also dismissed earlier this season after a brawl with Sé-

bastien Perez at Ewood Park. Fortunately for Chelsea, who are facing mounting disciplinary problems, any sennot start until well after the FA Cup quarter-final against Manchester United at Old Trafford pext Sunday, a game from which Frank Leboeuf, Dennis Wise and Celestine Ba-

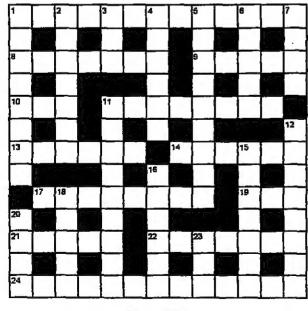
bayaro will be missing. Giantuca Vialli, the Chelsea player-manager, is due to start a three-match suspension next

Ronaldo out, page 48

e in the sales

Ver. 28

TIMESTWO



No 1654

I Pleasure craft; Kern musical

2 A permit (7)

3 Geog. plan (3) 4 Jap. matting (6) 5 (Liquid) solidify (9)

7 Slowly go down (4)

11 Abandonment (9)

16 Preoccupy (6) 18 Dislodged turf (5)

6 Sugary cake topping (5)

12 Pile of mine waste (4.4)

15 Blameworthy conduct (7)

20 Cannabis; plant for rope (4)

I Getting one's way in tiny

8 Back of skull (7) 9 Strange; non-citizen (5) 10 Prohibit (3) 11 Creator, not supreme, god (8)

13 Disinclined (to) (6) 14 Senseless destroyer (6) 17 Charming, captivating (8) 19 Saucerless cup: one swindled 21 Ballade final stanza (5)

22 Approve; sign back of cheque

24 Sit down at last (3,4,4,2) 23 One Welsh, two Scot. rivers : SOLUTION TO NO 1653 ACROSS: 8 Nairobi 9 Mensa 10 Trousseau 11 Owe 12 Logic 14 Testily 15 Pretend 17 Bambi 19 Tun 20 Teddy bear 22 Corfu 23 Confine

DOWN: 1 Instil 2 Ciao 3 Horse chestnut 4 Divert 5 Impulse buying 6 Encomium 7 Napery 13 Greenery 15 Patsch 16 Deduce 18 Israel 21 Exit

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Celtic demand the dismissal of Farry over Cadete blunder

FERGUS McCANN. the Celtic chairman, will walk away from the club about £40 million richer next month when he sells his shares in the former Scottish champions and leaves for Bermuda. Yet an equally prized item in his baggage might be the scalp of Jim Farry, the Scottish Football Association (SFA) chief executive, who was suspended by his employers yesterday as McCann basked in the glow of victory after a three-year banle to prove that Farry's negligence had cost them the services of Jorge Cadete, the Portugal player, during the finale to the 1995-96 season.

Celtic have asked for Farry's removal as chief executive and there can be little doubt he faces a struggle to hold on to his job. The SFA halted an arbitration tribunal that had been examining the Cadete affair and released a statement yesterday, which admit-ted liability. It has also agreed to pay unspecified compensa-

tion to Celtic for the delays in registering Cadete in 1996. John McBeth, the vice-president of the SFA, took barely a minute to read the statement. saying the case raised by Celtic "has been settled by the parties prior to completion of arbitration. The settlement is in favour of Celtic." Not surprisingly, McCann

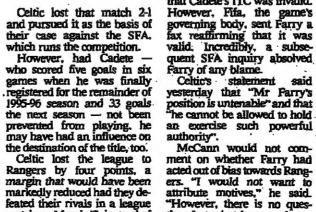
had much more to say on the and pursued it as the basis of their case against the SFA.

subject. The Celtic chairman said that he felt vindicated, but added: This should never have taken three years. It should have been resolved at the time." Cadete was purchased in

February 1996 from Sporting Lisbon to augment Celtic's push for the Scottish Premier League title, yet, despite the player's international transfer clearance (ITC) being received by the SFA from the Portuguese FA on March 7, 1996, Cadete was still not registered in time to face Rangers in a Scottish Cup semi-final a month later.

drawing 1-1.

McCann: vindicated Farry: investigation



acted out of bias towards Rangers. "I would not want to attribute motives," he said. "However, there is no question that what happened was with intent. Whether that was obstinacy. incompetence or malice. I will leave up to you."

Farry also issued a statement yesterday, saying he was "co-operating with my employ-ers in an additional investigation into issues raised by the dispute". There was no public apology from the SFA. It had undertaken that task earlier in the day, with a letter to Celtic the day, with a tener to centre from McBeth, stating that "as a consequence of failures by the chief executive. the registration had not progressed as it ought. The SFA acknowledges that had registration been entern the placer [Cadete] been given, the player [Cadete] would have been available to play against Rangers."

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